



THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Showers with some long sunny spells

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MEDIA+

WHY I'M BACKING BLAIR
by the editor of the Express
WITH PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

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GOUGH PUTS
AUSTRALIA IN
THE SHADE

‘They took the bodies and cut off the heads. They ate the hearts and drank the blood.’
The return of the cannibals

Exclusive

Richard Lloyd Parry
reports from Borneo

As many as four thousand people on the island of Borneo, including women and children, have been ritually murdered in an outbreak of head hunting and cannibalism which has been all but covered up by the Indonesian government.

Headless human remains seen by *The Independent*, together with graphic pictures obtained from a local photographer, represent the first solid evidence of what has until now been little more than rumour: an ethnic war of scarcely imaginable savagery, fought according to ancient principles of black magic, between inhabitants of the world's fourth biggest nation.

The killings took place in the first two months of this year in the remote province of West Kalimantan, close to Indonesia's border with Malaysia, which shares the vast equatorial island of Borneo. Most of those who died were settlers from the island of Madura, east of the main Indonesian population centre, Java.

For decades, land disputes and cultural differences have caused simmering tension between the Madurese and the original inhabitants of Borneo, a race known as the Dayaks. At the very end of last year it exploded, after two Dayak men were stabbed at a pop concert, allegedly by Madurese youths. The authorities restored an uneasy peace, but when rumours began to spread of similar attacks a month later, thousands of Dayaks, urged on by tribal shamans, began a series of mob attacks on Madurese settlements.

The road between Pontianak and the town of Pahuaman, two and a half hours' drive to the north-east, is still lined with hundreds of burned out houses formerly occupied by Madurese. In thick jungle near the town of Salaog last week, *The Independent* was shown a few of the victims of these attacks: six skeletons, five of them in a single spot, all of them lacking skulls.

Photographs taken by a local man on 7 February show severed heads lying in ditches, and a headless, mutilated body by the side of the road in Pahuaman. Witnesses describe seeing thousands of Dayaks wearing war paint, and apparently in a trance state, shooting Madurese with home made shotguns, cutting off their heads, drinking their blood and removing and eating their hearts.

‘On 1 February a gang of Madurese burned five Dayak houses in the morning,’ said a teacher in the town of Salatiaga, where some of the worst violence occurred. ‘I was watching from my bathroom window when about 1,000 Dayaks arrived in town. A lot of the Madurese had already run away, but about 50 stayed... Three of them got shot - Sinem, Haji Marsuli, and another man I didn't know well. The Dayaks took the bodies and they cut off their heads with swords. Then they cut open their backs and pulled out the hearts, and they ate the hearts and drank the blood.’

A Javanese man returned that evening to find his home burned down and the headless bodies of six of his Madurese neighbours, including an 80-year old woman, lying on the road with their hearts ripped out. A foreign priest in another village described seeing his Catholic parishioners return carrying heads as trophies. Local parishioners in Dayak villages estimate that 200 Dayaks killed Catholic priests in the fighting. The Indonesian Ministry of Research and Development, a non-institute of Dayakology Research and Development, a non-governmental organisation in the West Kalimantan capital of Pontianak, puts the numbers of dead at 1,700. The government acknowledges fewer than 300 dead. An estimated 20,000 Madurese are still living in dormitories guarded by the military.

Headhunting in the Borneo jungle, pages 8 and 9



The skull of a Madurese tribesman, one of 4,000 killed - and many of them eaten - in an ethnic war with the Dayak tribe in West Kalimantan, Borneo, in February

Budget will stop child benefit for 16-18 year olds

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will signal the go ahead for the replacement of child benefit for 16-18 year olds with an educational allowance as part of a radical welfare-to-work strategy to be unveiled in his first Budget.

Mr Brown, who will today seek to put jobs at the centre of the European agenda at a meeting of European finance ministers, is planning a wide-ranging package of measures to get young people back to work as part of next month's Budget.

A review of the detailed proposals for the education allowance, including the amount and eligibility, is being carried out by Baroness Blackstone, but senior Cabinet sources said Mr Brown will confirm the plans in principle.

There was speculation that the proposals for replacing child benefit had been abandoned, after they appeared to have been watered down to a review in the Labour election manifesto.

But sources close to the Chancellor last night denied any change of the policy. ‘There is a com-



mitment and it is incorrect to say it has been dropped,’ said the source.

The Budget is set to follow in the radical, reforming pattern of the first weeks of the Blair administration. The welfare-to-work plans will be financed largely by the £5bn windfall profits tax on the privatised utilities.

Scrapping child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds could release an estimated £600m to pay for education allowances for children

from poorer families to continue with their education beyond the existing school leaving age.

The welfare to education review, produced last September by Mr Brown with Harriet Harman, now the Social Security Secretary, and David Blunkett, the Employment and Education Secretary, said: ‘The current system of child benefit after 16 does not work. It is not universal and never has been... The mother of an unemployed 16-year-old loses it. The mother of an Etonian sixth-former in a millionaire family receives £1,500 over three years.’

Mr Blunkett was wary about scrapping part of child benefit, which goes to around 12.5 million children and nearly seven million families, but is fully behind the moves to offer children allowances to stay on in some form of education or training.

As part of preparing children for work, Education ministers this week will tell schools to pay more attention to literacy and numeracy. It may mean cutting class projects and trendy teaching methods, to concentrate on the three ‘Rs’ of reading, writing and arithmetic, pending the outcome of a curriculum review.

Treasury sources refused to confirm weekend speculation that Mr Brown had decided to keep mortgage interest tax relief (Miras), worth £27 a month to the average householder on the maximum relief of 15 per cent on the first £50,000 of a mortgage. Scrapping it would save around £3bn and would remove the unfair advantage over those renting property, but it would be a heavy blow to ‘middle England’ voters, who put their trust in Mr Blair at the election, particularly after two hikes in interest rates.

Mr Blair promised no increases in the tax rates, but Mr Brown is expected to raise more taxes in the Budget through allowances, and closing loopholes on business, with ‘green’ car taxes on polluting ‘gas guzzlers’, company cars, and closing company tax loopholes.

Mr Blair this week will take a unique opportunity to explain the Government's plans for flexible working policies in Europe by addressing the board of the Ford motor company in a London hotel. It will be the first time that the US executives as a group have been addressed by a Prime Minister.

Scots Tories plan split from party

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

The Scottish Conservatives are preparing to split from the English party at their annual conference later this month. Supporters of the move hope it will help their party to win new popularity after the loss of all the Scottish Tory seats in the general election, and that it will give them a better chance of success in Labour's planned Scottish parliament.

It would also allow them to elect a leader instead of having one chosen for them by the English party leader, and to select candidates independently instead of from a Central Office-approved list. However, it would deprive them of financial support from the Tory headquarters in London. The new party might change its name, possibly to the Scottish Unionist Association.

This weekend the chairman of the Scottish party said she believed that members would call for radical change at the forthcoming gathering in Perth, and that the Conservative leadership in Smith Square, London, would accept their decision.

Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Conservative Central Office in Scotland, has told party members: ‘Nothing is off limits.’

Miss Goldie was given the job by John Major just weeks before the general election when her predecessor, Michael Hirst, was forced to resign after admitting a homosexual affair.

‘This conference, in short, is talking about the survival of the party,’ she said. When the Scottish Conservatives were linked with the English party 20 years ago it was felt to be an efficient system, she said, but that might no longer be the case.

‘In many respects it has been effective and it has been worthwhile. But there may be an argument that events have overtaken that structure,’ she

told *The Independent*. However, she added, it would be inappropriate for her to give her to comment on demands for a new, autonomous Scottish party at this stage.

‘If the demand for change and for radical restructuring is as clamant as I anticipate it will be, then that clamant demand will indeed require to be processed,’ she said.

Party leaders in London had accepted that their Scottish

and Unionist Association will be its approach to the referendum on a Scottish parliament, due to be held in September.

Miss Goldie is chairman of the professional wing of the Scottish Conservatives, the equivalent of the Smith Square headquarters in London. This month's conference is of its voluntary wing, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association. Some members argue that the new party should unite these two wings and act as a single organisation with an elected leader.

The former foreign secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, has been suggested as a possible leader. But it is believed he still hopes to return to Westminster after losing his Edinburgh Pentlands seat.

However, Mr Rifkind said in an article in the *Scotsman* last week that Conservatives north of the border should reform as a modern unionist party with separate funding and a distinctly Scottish identity.

Other Scottish Conservatives have complained bitterly that the party leadership has been out of touch with what was happening north of the border.

Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish Tory Reform Group, is among them. He believes the party has defied its own principles by becoming more centralised and would like to see an independent group at Westminster which would work with the Conservatives as a number of independent centre-right parties work together in Europe.

‘You cannot have your policies handed down by people who very occasionally come up to shoot in Scotland,’ he said.

Leadership contest, page 4



Annabel Goldie: Anticipates clamant demand for change

wing must decide its own future, she added. ‘I think south of the border there is enormous sympathy for the position in which we find ourselves, and a readiness to accept that we have to determine what it is we must do to survive,’ she said.

The party would be quite capable of surviving financially as an independent entity, she added. However, it would be likely to retain strong links with its English counterpart because of its belief in the union. Another crucial decision to be taken at this month's conference of the Scottish Conservative

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Ahern takes power
Ireland's centre left Government last night conceded defeat to Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fail party and its allies, who will depend on a handful of Independents. Page 7

A chat to be had
Fathers may think they are doing children a favour by sparing them the embarrassment of talking about sex but, according to new research, they should think again. Page 3

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news

significant shorts

Whitehall to act over lost radioactive dumps

The Government promised yesterday to take action to deal with hundreds of uncharted radioactive dumps left over from the Cold War.

Radioactive material was often buried in landfill sites during the Fifties and Sixties before proper regulations came into force. Now a nuclear engineer has estimated that there are more than 500 such dumps all over the country with radioactive material leaking into the surrounding earth.

Michael Meacher, minister for environmental protection, told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that the Government was going to deal with the problem "as quickly as we can". He said: "It is a significant and serious form of contamination which, in our view, should have been dealt with much earlier". John Large, an independent nuclear engineer, has built up a database of military and civilian installations. Speaking on the same programme, Mr Large said: "You have a series of nuclear facilities in this country, waste tips, contaminated buildings that were never logged on - no caretakers, no regulators."

Man rescues girls from freak wave

A holidaymaker who rescued two teenage girls after they were swept into the sea by a freak wave at a holiday beach was being hailed as a hero yesterday.

Paul Date, 32, from Hounslow, west London, plunged into the waves at West Bay, Dorset, to pull the two teenagers to safety after they were sucked out by the undertow. "But for him we could have been looking at fatalities," said acting Sergeant David Hughes of the Dorset police. The 17-year-olds, Rebecca Brown and Donna Bracey, from Bristol, were airlifted to Weymouth and District Hospital suffering from water inhalation and slight hypothermia. Donna's 11-year-old sister Carly, who also went into the water, was taken to the same hospital by ambulance suffering from slight hypothermia and shock. A Weymouth hospital spokesman said that the girls were discharged later and were "all fine".

Bravery award for nursery nurse



A nursery nurse who was stabbed as she shielded children from a machete-wielding attacker will be honoured by her union this week.

Lisa Potts, 21, suffered deep wounds to her back, chest and hands when Horrett Campbell, a paranoid schizophrenic, launched the attack during a teddy bears' picnic at St Luke's school in Wolverhampton last year. Miss Potts will be presented with a certificate of merit for outstanding bravery during Unison's annual conference in Brighton this week.

Stolen medals found after 14 years

A medal won by a private in the Boer War has been returned to his granddaughter, 14 years after it was stolen from her home.

The South Africa Campaign Medal (1899-1902) was recovered by Operation Bumblebee officers in a £100,000 raid on pawnshop in Lewisham, south-east London. Now Private Samuel Tippet's medal has been given back to his granddaughter, Julie Barnshaw, 57, who owns a pub in Islington, north London.

Also returned were her grandfather's gold-coloured Christmas 1914 tobacco tin, a letter of condolence from George V on his death in the First World War, and a Territorial Campaign medal for Efficient Service given to her father James. Mrs Barnshaw said the medals and memorabilia were among items stolen by burglars from her home in Catford, south-east London, in 1983. "This really brings back how brave they were," she said.

Pensioner blows up flats

Peggy Seaton, a pensioner, teamed up with the environment minister Hilary Armstrong yesterday to change a city's skyline when they pressed buttons to bring down two 16-storey blocks of flats above a hillside in Sheffield in controlled explosions.

The blast, using 120kgs of explosives which converted the tower blocks into 24,000 tonnes of rubble, came at exactly the same time as the Yorkshire-based contractor Controlled Demolition had arranged to blow down a 10-storey office block 4,000 miles away in Rockville, Montgomery, near Washington DC in the United States.

Charles Moran, managing director of the company, said: "This is the first time we've blown down buildings simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic." Mrs Seaton, 74, was chosen to help Ms Armstrong set off the Sheffield blast because she has lived so long - 32 years - on the Norfolk Park estate where the flats stood. Thousands of people turned out to watch the explosion.

007 director aspires to new heights

Roger Spottiswoode, the English director of the latest 007 film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, is preparing to make a £13m film about the battle to build Salisbury Cathedral's immense spire.

The film, based on William Golding's 1965 novel, *The Spire*, will tell the story of the cathedral's 14th-century dean who is obsessed with building a spire for the greater glory of God. Sir Anthony Hopkins was originally cast as the Dean, but became unavailable and Spottiswoode is looking for another British actor to replace him. The as yet untitled movie, to be set in 1325, will be part-funded by £1m of National Lottery money.

people



Pilgrimage: Mary Robinson, the Irish president, at Iona Abbey yesterday to mark the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba. The Irish saint founded the abbey in the 6th century and sent missionaries out to preach the gospel; Aherm set for power, page 7. (Photograph: Reuters)

My regrets, by magistrate who jailed 12-year-old girl

Malcolm Hartley, the magistrate whose decision to send a 12-year-old girl to an adult prison was condemned as "barbaric" expressed regret yesterday, but claimed he had no other choice.

Civil liberties campaigners on the Isle of Man have promised to take the case of the girl, who had not been convicted of any offence and suffers from spina bifida, to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Mr Hartley said the girl, who lived in a children's home, was considered a danger to herself and others.

He said: "I told her that she could be granted bail if she continued to live at the children's home and did not go out unaccompanied. The girl refused to accept these conditions and so I was left with no alternative."

"I have three children and many grandchildren - including a grandson the same age as the girl - and I did not take the decision to send her to the juvenile unit lightly."

The girl is being kept in a cell at special annexe of the prison inside the perimeter wall of Victoria Road Prison

in Douglas. She is kept away from adult inmates but can associate with offenders aged up to 16.

A 15-year-old youth is at the same jail where he is thought to be serving a six-month sentence for assault and theft. A 14-year-old boy awaiting trial was released a few days ago when his parents agreed to take care of him.

A Marx advocate, Terence McDonald, has called for the island's government to carry out urgent reforms. "It is barbaric to lock up children in jail and place them in cells," he said.

Mr Hartley, a member of the prison board, said: "It is a modern unit, with specially trained staff and I believe the girl will receive the care she needs."

The girl, who is not being named, first appeared before Mr Hartley on Tuesday charged with assault and criminal damage. He said: "The police requested a remand in custody and it was considered the girl was in moral danger as she tended to go missing for lengthy periods and the staff at the children's home could not control her."

Kim Sengupta



One million turn out for Pope's Krakow return

Pope John Paul II, finally home in "my beloved city," slept in his old home, visited his old school and rejoiced in the cheers of more than one million of his countrymen yesterday in the biggest turnout of his 11-day Polish pilgrimage.

The crowd began arriving shortly after dawn for the major Mass of his Krakow stay, nearly filling the city's vast Bonifaz meadow.

The Pope proclaimed Poland's 14th century queen, Hedwig, a saint, holding up her generosity and example for today's political leaders. His message was part of his efforts to keep Poles from losing their identity and values in the transition from a communist to a free-market economy.

While many Poles have expressed fear that this could be the last visit for John Paul, now 77 and slowed by infirmity, church officials suggested he may return next year when he has been invited for the 1,000th anniversary of Gdansk on the Baltic coast.

Although he walked slowly and his voice was weak, the Pontiff managed to hold up his staff to acknowledge chants of "Long live the Pope."

The former Karol Wojtyla spent most of his life as student, priest and archbishop before his election to the papacy. He spent the night in the 17th century archbishop's residence where he lived for 14 years. He also visited Jagiellonian University, where he studied theology in secret after it was closed by the Nazis.

AP - Krakow

Michael Hickey on theft charge

Michael Hickey, one of the Bridgewater Four, was last night back in custody after being charged with theft and carrying an offensive weapon.

Mr Hickey, 36, was arrested in Birmingham city centre on Saturday, said West Midlands police.

He was taken to Steelhouse Lane police station and interviewed by detectives before being charged with theft and possessing an offensive weapon.

The charge is thought to be in connection with the alleged theft of a tray of gold rings from the city's Supergold store.

He is being held in custody and is due to appear before magistrates in Birmingham today.

Mr Hickey was one of four men jailed in 1979 for the murder of the paperboy Carl Bridgewater at Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge.

He was ordered to be detained indefinitely while his cousin Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were given life. Pat Molloy was convicted of manslaughter.

The men, who always protested their innocence, became known as the Bridgewater Four during their campaign to have the convictions quashed.

After a long campaign, they were freed in February when the prosecution accepted that fresh evidence left the case against them fundamentally flawed.

briefing

ENVIRONMENT

Green tax prompts sharp increase in fly-tipping

A green tax designed to reduce waste dumping has caused an increase in fly-tipping, according to a survey published today. Three-quarters of local authorities have reported an increase in the illegal practice since the introduction of the landfill tax last October.

The disposal of waste at landfill sites was taxed at up to £7 per tonne under the measures and was intended to encourage less rubbish being produced. It was also aimed at encouraging recycling and has raised £11m in its first three months.

But in the commercial sector, only one third of waste producers were reducing the amount of taxable waste they produced.

Roger Wood, of Coopers & Lybrand, who carried out the survey, said: "In this double Budget year, the Chancellor has a golden opportunity to make landfill tax a more effective eco-tax than it appears to be at present, with or without raising the rates."

WILDLIFE

'Ratty' at home in the urban jungle

The water vole, once a familiar sight on rural riverbanks and streams, has become a survivor in the urban jungle.

The creature, famed as Ratty in *Wind in the Willows*, has found that living in polluted city waterways gives it an escape route from one of its worst enemies, the American mink.

Scientists working with the Environment Agency and The Wildlife Trusts' Water Volewatch have found that water voles have disappeared from more than two thirds of sites where they once bred.

This is due largely to habitat loss, change in land use, predation by mink and fluctuations in water levels. They have almost vanished from major rivers and now live in headstreams, canals, urban watercourses, drainage ditches, city lakes and even garden ponds.



EDUCATION

English children falter in maths

Standards in primary schools will come under the spotlight again this week, with another report showing English children slipping down the international league table.

Nine-year-olds will be shown to be struggling with basic maths, lagging substantially behind children from countries in the Pacific Rim and eastern Europe.

The report came as the Government prepares this week to launch a drive to promote more teaching of the three Rs in primary schools. Ministers have proposed that schools should spend an hour a day on reading and writing.

They are also likely to demand more time for arithmetic in the wake of the latest study of half a million nine-year-olds in 26 countries. Due out on Tuesday, it is expected to show roughly the same results as last year's worldwide survey of 13-year-olds.

The Third International Maths and Science Study found that English 13-year-olds got an average of only 53 per cent of maths questions correct.

INDUSTRY

Women behind in computer skills

Only 5 per cent of professional information technology personnel and just one in five computer studies students are women, according to research published today.

There are also indications that the number of female students in computer-related courses is declining in some higher education institutions, IT recruitment consultants DP Connect and *Computing magazine* found.

Schoolgirls are encouraged to view familiarity with information technology as a means of securing an office job, but not as a career in itself. The study says: "Women IT professionals tended to have entered the industry by accident." Meanwhile, the Wainwright Trust, a charity funded research group into equal opportunities, found that the promotion and recruitment of women in the private sector had been adversely affected by the tendency to devolve decision-making to line managers.

PETS

Insurance is best policy for dogs

Pet owners are more likely to insure their dogs than their cats. Canines account for 60 per cent of all pet insurance policies, research by Datamonitor has found, compared with 15 per cent for felines. Horses and ponies fall in the middle, with a quarter of policies aimed at protecting them.

Although Britain is meant to be a nation of animal lovers, the figures show that fewer than one in 10 pets have insurance policies, with a total of 168,072 cats, dogs and horses covered.

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هاتنا من الامام

Father doesn't know best

Teenagers want to talk about sex, but not to their dads

Clare Garner

Fathers may think they are doing their offspring a favour by sparing them the embarrassment of talking about sex but, according to new research, they should think again.

A Harris survey on teenagers and promiscuity identifies fathers as the worst offenders in the approachability stakes. Britain's teenagers want to talk more openly about their sexual worries, but three in four feel unable to embark on such a conversation with their fathers.

Parents seem to be suffering in silence, too. While three in four parents say they worry about their teenagers having under-age sex, the same number never talk to their children about important sexual issues.

Even those who talk to their children about sex steer clear of fundamental issues, the survey reveals. Four in 10 parents who say they talk about sex have not mentioned contraception, and three in 10 have never spoken about AIDS. Eight in 10 have never discussed masturbation and the same number have never made any reference to oral sex.

"The majority of parents in Britain are leaving their kids' sex education to chance and letting them drift into early promiscuity," says Steve Chalke, founder of the Oasis Trust, which commissioned the survey, resident family specialist on GMTV, and author of the forthcoming book *How to Succeed as a Parent*. "Most of the 8,000 under-16s who become pregnant every year in the UK never even wanted to have sex, let alone a baby," he adds. Rather, they had sex, he says, because they "didn't know how to say 'no'". It is a scandal that so many of Britain's parents are exposing their kids to this danger and not even bothering to discuss contraception with them.

Time, says Mr Chalke in the run-up to Father's Day, is the "greatest gift" a father can give his child.

Citing the experts' view that the average father spends three minutes a day in "quality" conversation with his children, Mr Chalke emphasises that he means "quality time".

"Time to talk. Time to listen. Time to show you care," he says. "If you want to diffuse the teenage time-bomb you have to start talking to them when they're toddlers... The deep issues and important questions - the things that matter most to children - trickle out because a parent is there."

Four out of five teenagers feel unable to talk to their fathers about important issues, sexual or otherwise. They single out *Gazza*, Grant Mitchell of the soap opera, *Eastenders*, and Prince Charles as Britain's worst fathers. Why? Because they do not spend enough time with their children.

Chris Evans, David Wickes, from *Eastenders*, and Terry Duckworth, from *Coronation Street*, also fared badly. The average child spends three hours a day watching television, Mr Chalke combines this fact with the apparent lack of communication between parents and children and draws the obvious conclusion.

"Instead of being influenced by their parents, they're taking their lead from friends, TV and magazines. So the question isn't 'Are your kids being brainwashed?' It's 'What are your kids' brains being brainwashed by?' If parents don't discuss sex properly they're risking their child's future."

The survey, which was carried out with 675 parents and 675 children in the UK, reveals that six out of 10 parents would be worried if their children were homosexual, and particularly fathers. "So why on earth



Across the generations: John Clark, 49, talking to his teenage daughter Martha - but not about sex

Photograph: Adrian Dennis

'Children are better off being children'

John Clark and his teenage daughter, Martha, have a close relationship, but not so close that they talk about sex. Neither party would wish it any other way, writes Clare Garner.

"I think it's about respecting boundaries," said Mr Clark, 49, a university lecturer who lives in north London. "I don't think I should be obliged to talk to Martha about sex. I don't think it's necessarily appropriate." He recently overheard two school girls discussing flavoured condoms and oral sex. "Well," he mused, "I'm not going to start talking to Martha about flavoured condoms, quite honestly."

Martha, 16, has never felt the need to talk to her parents about sex. School, she said, has provided her with all the sex education she needs. "I think our school is particularly good on that because it's a girls' school," she said. "We've got a lot of female teachers who want us to know about it."

At 12, she was taught how to put condoms on carrots and every year since, the lessons have become "more serious", focusing in particular on HIV and Aids. Martha said she would tell her parents if she wanted to go on the Pill. "But I wouldn't need their support that much," she hastened to add.

Mr Clark outlined his approach to parenting. "Our family line is that children are better off being children than growing up, which means you don't necessarily talk to them about sex all the time," he said. "That's a good excuse, isn't it?"

He is more concerned with establishing a "good quality relationship" with Martha so that if she needs to talk she can, than spelling out the mechanics of sex.

"The idea of having a set of rules that between the age of 12 and 14 you discuss the various positions of sexual intercourse and alternative forms of contraceptive is ridiculous," he said. He remembered how awkward he felt when he was called upon to explain certain scenes in films and soap operas: "What I had to do is not flee the room - which I was definitely tempted to do."

Even Shakespeare has proved problematic. "We went to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*," he said. "It's very explicit what's happening, that this donkey is having sex with a fairy. What are you going to say about that?"

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Leading article, page 14

Dos and don'ts of parenting

Ten things you **SHOULD** NOT say to your child:

- 1) "You're so stupid!"
- 2) "Sometimes, I wish you'd never been born!"
- 3) "If only you were more like your brother!"
- 4) "You could do so well, if only..."
- 5) "Look at everything I've given up for you!"
- 6) "Act your age!"
- 7) "Don't be silly, there's nothing to be frightened of!"
- 8) "Wait until your father gets home!"
- 9) "You have no idea what you're talking about!"
- 10) "You always/never..."

Ten things you **SHOULD** say to your child:

- 1) "I'm so proud of you, well done!"
- 2) "You're so thoughtful..."
- 3) "You're clever to have worked that out!"
- 4) "I love you."
- 5) "What do you think about...?"
- 6) "It's OK to cry."
- 7) "You tried your best, and that's what counts."
- 8) "It's OK to make mistakes."
- 9) "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"
- 10) "I said NO!"



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What the survey found

Main points of survey:

- Three out of four parents have been worried about their teenagers having under-age sex.
- One in two teenagers have sex before 16.
- Three in four parents never talk to their children about important sexual issues.
- Three in four teenagers cannot talk to their fathers about important sexual issues.
- Four in five teenagers cannot talk to their fathers about important issues (regardless of whether or not they are sexual).
- Eight in 10 parents haven't discussed masturbation.
- Eight in 10 parents haven't discussed oral sex.
- Four in 10 parents haven't discussed contraception.
- Three in ten parents haven't discussed Aids.

Ecstasy fear as two die at raves

Michael Streeter

Police are investigating the deaths at the weekend of two young people who may have taken the drug ecstasy.

Early yesterday, a 17-year-old boy died just five hours after collapsing at a rave party in Skegness, Lincolnshire. John Wainwright died in hospital after lapsing into a "semi-conscious state", according to police. Inspector Graham Marsh, of the Lincolnshire force, said:

"There seems to be little doubt he has taken drugs. The parents are grief-stricken. I don't think the shock has sunk in yet, but what can you say?" He added: "The nature of the death is a classic reaction of the body to ecstasy and I would be surprised if it turned out to be anything else."

A spokesman for the Active Corporation, which organised the event at the Fantasy Island complex in Ingoldmells, near Skegness, said: "There is very

little to say at this time and we will not be issuing a statement until tomorrow." The rave is believed to have been attended by 300 partygoers.

In a separate incident, a man - believed to be aged between 20 and 22 years old - was taken to hospital from an all-night rave event in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, but attempts to revive him failed and he was certified dead at 11.25pm on Saturday. The coroner has been informed.

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news

Boost for Clarke in Tory survey

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke is expected to win a ballot of constituency party chairmen today on the eve of the election among 164 Tory MPs for the Conservative Party leadership.

The results of the ballot to be announced tomorrow will give Mr Clarke's bandwagon a huge boost by putting pressure on Tory MPs to back the former Chancellor in the secrecy of the first ballot.

William Hague is expected to come second in the ballot of Tory constituency chairmen, who will cast their votes by telephone using secret pin numbers.

The results, to be announced immediately before MPs vote, could increase the demands for a re-run of the election, if the MPs ignore the views of the constituencies and elect one of the outright Euro-sceptic right-wing candidates, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley or John Redwood.

The right-wing camps will meet after MPs vote tomorrow morning to thrash out a deal to stop Mr Clarke or Mr Hague, amid continuing speculation that Baroness Thatcher would prefer a more Euro-sceptic leader.

Mr Lilley called on the third and fourth candidates to drop out of the race for the second ballot, to avoid the right-wing vote being split. But in a move which could help Mr Clarke, Mr Redwood, the most outspoken opponent of European monetary union, said he intended to "go on" until he won the argument for ruling out the single currency.

Mr Clarke who is trying to convince the Euro-sceptics to vote for him, as a "big hitter"

against Tony Blair, offered the right no concessions yesterday in his pro-European views.

The ex-Chancellor, who last week called for delay of the single currency, on BBC Television's *On the Record* programme refused to commit himself to a referendum on the single currency beyond the lifetime of this Parliament.

All the camps yesterday were trying to talk-up their support. Mr Lilley and Mr Howard were believed to be neck-and-neck for third place.

Mr Clarke won the backing of the former cabinet minister, John MacGregor, while the Hague camp won the endorsement of Charles Lewington, former head of communications at the Conservative Central Office during the election.

Mr Lewington became the first "insider" to break cover over the election debacle, by writing in the *Sunday Telegraph* that John Major had admitted two weeks before the election that the Conservatives could not win and that frustration over the civil war in his party plunged the ex-Prime Minister into "black moods" and he would "lash out at those closest to him".

After Edwina Currie destroyed Mr Major's pre-election rally in Bath by urging him to quit early if the Tories lost the election, Mr Major told Mr Lewington: "I am sorry you have to deal with these people." After a pause, Mr Major added, "Sometimes I don't know why I bother."

Sporting Index, the spread-betting organisation, said Mr Clarke is ahead with punters betting on the ex-Chancellor getting 58-62 votes in the first ballot; Mr Hague 33-37; Mr Howard 25-29; Mr Lilley 21-25; and Mr Redwood 17-20.

Deputy prime minister has a whale of a time



John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, taking the plunge in the North Sea yesterday at Whitley Bay in Tyne and Wear to mark World Oceans Day. Mr Prescott is a keen diver and has campaigned for cleaner seas. Photograph: PA

Cook raises doubts on timetable for the euro

Colin Brown

Robin Cook yesterday opposed moves by the newly elected French government to ease the economic criteria for countries to join a "softer" single European currency.

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that he believed the election victory for the socialists under Lionel Jospin and the aborted attempt by the Germans to revalue their gold reserves had raised doubts about the single currency starting on time in 1999.

Mr Cook is one of the leading sceptics in the Cabinet about the single currency, but there appears to be no difference of view within the Government "big four" - Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, John Prescott and Mr Cook.

In spite of the warmth of the meeting between Mr Blair and Mr Jospin in Malmö last Friday, Britain is wary about the French plans for softening the entry criteria for the single currency.

Asked if he welcomed the French idea of a "softer euro", Mr Cook said: "No, not if that meant you were making it easier for people who had fudged the criteria to get in under the line."

He added: "The debate at the moment seems to be in danger of polarising between a softer Euro, which would not be workable, and a harder Euro which would not be popular."

"If the European single currency is to proceed on time it is very important that it proceeds on time both with credible criteria which will make sure it is a credible strong currency and secondly with popular backing."

Mr Cook was also dismissive of some of the five points by Mr Jospin at the social democrats' gathering in Malmö.

Mr Jospin said Italy and Spain should be included in the first wave. But Mr Cook said: "I don't think you should name countries who ought to begin, as of right. I think countries

should be entitled to join a single currency if they meet the criteria... That is the issue to be addressed, not the name of the country."

He said there was now broad agreement in Europe that the approach to a single currency had to be underpinned by an economic strategy for growth and jobs.

That was why Mr Brown, the Chancellor, would be putting his proposals today for jobs to the meeting of European finance ministers.

It was "unlikely" Britain would join the first wave in 1999, said Mr Cook but he stressed that jobs would be the key

Talking to Tony

Tony Blair's first week in office has been a busy one. He has held a series of meetings with senior cabinet members and has been seen in public on several occasions. He has also been seen in the White House with President Clinton. Blair's first week has been a success, and he has been praised for his calm and confident leadership. He has also been seen in the White House with President Clinton. Blair's first week has been a success, and he has been praised for his calm and confident leadership. He has also been seen in the White House with President Clinton.

yardstick for Britain's decision on whether to enter the currency, if and when it started. "We will carry out a hard-headed assessment towards the end of this year as to whether joining would be in the economic interests of Britain; would it increase or risk jobs." "At the moment, we think it unlikely that that assessment would put us to joining," he said on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost*.

MoD to review possibility of ban on foxhunting

Colin Brown

Foxhunting could be banned on more than 500,000 acres of Ministry of Defence land following a review announced yesterday by ministers.

One of the first victims of a ban on foxhunting on MoD land could be the Royal Artillery's own foxhunting pack at the Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain.

The MoD review, coupled with a review of foxhunting on Forestry Commission land, would hit more than 60 foxhunting packs, including one in the New Forest that hunts deer, and foxhunting packs in the Quantocks.

The move could be pre-empted this week by Michael Foster, a new Labour MP who is under pressure to introduce a private members' Bill banning hunting with hounds for all wild animals.

Mr Foster, who is anti-foxhunting, came top in the ballot of MPs for the right to introduce legislation, and will announce his decision this week after consulting his constituents in Worcester. A spokesman for the



Hunted: Ban could give foxes a quieter life on MoD land

League Against Cruel Sports said: "It is looking very good. Some hunts will be chopped; others will be seriously inconvenienced. But what we really need is legislation to protect wildlife from unnecessary suffering, by banning all hunts whether for deer, foxes, hares or mink. They would then have to go hunting by putting down a false trail, which would preserve the social side of their activity."

Field sports lobbyists said that up to a dozen hunts would be forced to close. But they insisted that the practical difficulties of imposing a ban would make it an unattractive proposal for both the MoD and the Commission.

Landowners have written to the MoD threatening to withdraw permission for exercises to encroach on their land, and could put up to a quarter of a million acres presently used for training out of bounds to the

military in the case of a ban, said Janet George, of the British Field Sports Society.

She said: "There is not much benefit and a hell of a lot of hassle for the Government in trying to get at hunting through the back door, which is what this is."

"They don't relish the prospect of pushing a total ban through Parliament, but they want to have something to offer the anti-hunting lobby."

An MoD spokeswoman said: "It is our intention to carry out a thorough review of the effectiveness of hunting with hounds to control fox numbers on MoD land." No timetable has yet been set for the review, which will consider alternative methods of controlling fox numbers, such as shooting, but it is expected to start soon, and be completed "within months, rather than years", she added.

The MoD owns about 600,000 acres, while the Forestry Commission controls 2.8 million. Among hunts which would probably be forced to close by a ban are the Borders Hunt, the New Forest Fox Hunt and the New Forest Buckhounds.

MPs who take bribes face seven years in jail under new law

Lobbyists who offer "cash for questions" to politicians will be caught by new laws to be announced today by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to clean up Parliament after the scandals of Tory MPs alleged to be guilty of sleaze, writes Colin Brown.

MPs found guilty of taking bribes or illegal gifts would face seven years' imprisonment under the anti-sleaze Bill to be introduced by Mr Straw, overriding the failed system of self-regulation by the Palace of Westminster.

The anti-corruption legislation would cover those found guilty of offering bribes to MPs, in addition to the judiciary and local councillors, as part of the pledge by Tony Blair to raise standards in public life.

Robyn Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "It would cut both ways. It's not just the MPs - it's those who offer the bribes that would be caught by this proposal."

"It is a common sense step forward to improving the state of the law. People are going to be slightly surprised to discover that although there are clear laws against bribery, members of Parliament are not among the categories if you attempt to bribe them."

The legislation will not act retrospectively and therefore the MPs criticised by Sir Gordon Downey, who is investigating cash-for-questions allegations, will not be caught in the net.

Mr Cook said on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost* there was an unsatisfactory position in which there was no

sanction by Parliament against Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP for Tatton, because he had lost his seat.

Mr Hamilton strongly denies the allegations and has complained that he has been prevented from clearing his name. However, Mr Cook said that in future, general elections would not stop former MPs facing charges. "If a criminal offence had taken place then the charge would be pursued within the usual timebar but not dropped because there had been an election."

The Nolan Committee, set up to investigate standards in public life, welcomed the Government initiative. The committee has backed Mr Straw's plan and is in recommend a new offence of misconduct in public

life when it publishes its report in a few weeks' time. Because of pressure on Parliament, the legislation will not be introduced until late next year.

The Nolan Committee was set up by John Major's government to examine standards in public life following the cash-for-questions scandal.

A spokesman for the committee said: "The Nolan Committee welcomes moves by the Government to take forward the work of the Law Commission and the Nolan Committee and the Home Office in tackling corruption."

The Bill will close a loophole in the law dating back to the 1689 Bill of Rights which gives MPs immunity from public prosecution.






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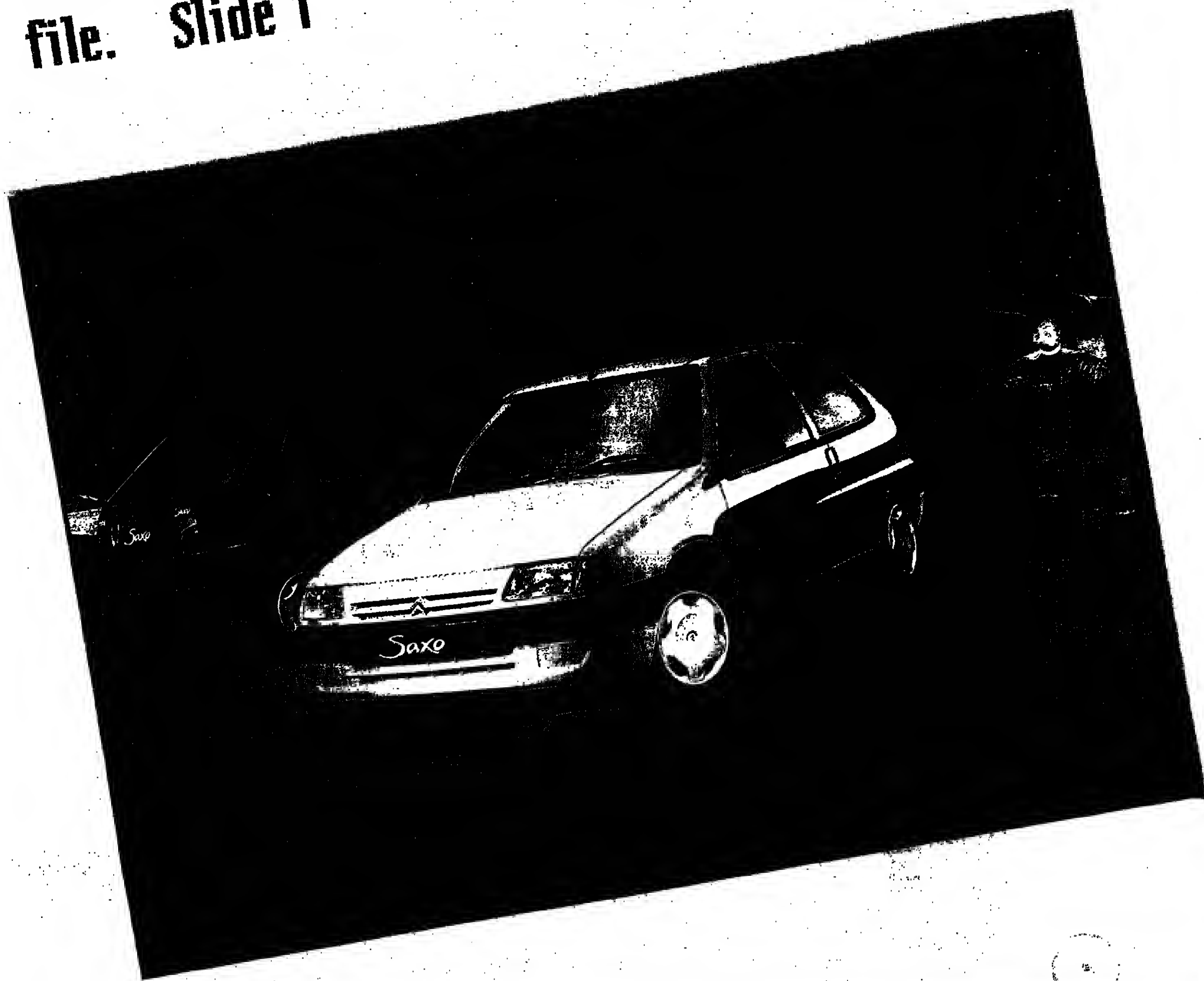
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The tide is turned for Dam Buster bombs

Army engineers yesterday successfully recovered the last of four prototypes of the bouncing bombs used in the Dam Busters raid.

The army team, including bomb disposal experts and Territorial Army soldiers, retrieved the four-ton bomb from the sea off the Kent coast where it was dropped 50 years ago.

The bomb was rolled on to the shore at Reculver, then attached by steel cables to a bulldozer before being winched further up the beach to be loaded on to a lorry. Attempts to haul the bomb in on Saturday night were defeated by the incoming tide.

Captain Alan Currow, Army liaison officer, said: "In the end we rolled it in by hand. Ten men at a time took it in turns to push the device and the Royal Engineers have beaten the tide. King Canute couldn't do it but we did."

The bomb is in extremely good condition. Some of the original paintwork is still visible and there is very little rust.

The bomb was the biggest of the four recovered and the funnest from the shore. Invented by Barnes Wallis, the bouncing bombs were used to destroy dams in Germany's industrial heartland, the Ruhr Valley, in 1943. The attack was celebrated in the 1954 film, *The Dam Busters*, starring Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd.

Reculver was chosen for testing the bombs because the twin towers of an old fort on the coastline were similar to the towers of the Ruhr dams which the pilots used to line themselves up on their bombing run.

The devices recovered also include a 1,800lb High Ball bomb, and two 1,200lb versions of the Upkeep bomb developed to target battleships. Heralded as an important part of military history, the bombs will be cleaned up before being put on display.



On a roll: Army engineers and bomb disposal officers pushing the four-ton Dam Buster bomb out of the sea at Reculver in Kent

Photograph: Paul Hackett/Reuters

Bruton deposed as Ahern takes reins of power

Alan Murdoch
Dublin

Ireland's centre-left Government last night conceded defeat to Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fáil party and its Progressive Democrat allies, who will depend for a slender Dail majority on a handful of Independents.

The two-day counting of results left Mr Ahern with sufficient support to be elected Taoiseach when the Dail resumes on 26 June. He now faces two weeks of hard bargaining with Independents to guarantee their votes.

Last night, Fianna Fáil (FF) had 76 seats, Fine Gael 33, Labour 17, Progressive Democrats 4, Democratic Left 4, Greens 2, Sinn Féin 1, and Independents 7. The final seat, in Limerick West, was expected to be won by Fine Gael.

Mr Ahern avoided the worst-case scenario of having to rely for support on Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, elected as Sinn Féin's first Dail TD (MP) since IRA hunger strikers won in 1981 and before that four abstentionist candidates in 1957.

Such a reliance would have poisoned his government's dealings with Unionists. It would also have been difficult for Mr Ahern's new-right partners, the Progressive Democrats, to tolerate. After dropping their Dail abstentionist policy in 1986, Sinn Féin's new TD for Cavan-Monaghan will take up his seat, unlike Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at Westminster.

Mr Ahern, 45, a former hospital accountant and union organiser, has led Fianna Fáil since Albert Reynolds resigned in 1994. He said he may make contact this week with Sinn

Féin President Gerry Adams to press for an early end to IRA violence. But he reiterated his position that once in power he would not meet Sinn Féin until a ceasefire was in place.

The Fianna Fáil leader said prospects for progress in Northern Ireland were "tremendous", adding "but when you go round the mulberry bush you come back to the position that it's very hard to get anywhere as long as there is violence".

"They [Sinn Féin] have stated in [recent] elections that their's is a peace strategy. I think they have to prove that now." If republicans "proved their

part" he said he would do "everything I humanly can" to move the process forward.

Outgoing ministers predicted a short life for the new coalition. Dependent in Dail votes on Independents in Donegal and Kerry South with strong republican views, this could create internal strains over Northern Ireland.

Labour leader Dick Spring, who said he would remain at the helm unless his party said otherwise, warned: "It seems hard to see a stable government emerging. There is going to be difficulty." He predicted Dail turbulence over abortion legislation, Northern Ireland, the payments to politicians inquiry and media ownership.

Ingenious vote control, exploiting the proportional representation system to the full, enabled Fianna Fáil to win many more seats than in 1992 on just 39 per cent of first-preference votes, in what was still its second-worst overall vote since 1932.

Though losing power, Mr Bruton emerged with enhanced stature after articulating a more visionary message in the campaign. Yesterday, he claimed there had been a "mind yourself" vote for the FF-PD coalition. Urging social cohesion, he warned that urban decay would not be remedied by tax-cutting "short-termism" under Fianna Fáil and the PDs. "Irish people are not basically interested in divisive 'grab-all' politics."

Attacked widely for their allegedly Thatcherite views, the Progressive Democrats fared badly, losing more than half their TDs. Some observers believe Mr Ahern might have won a majority but for his pact with the PDs.

Loyalists invade Catholic church

The dangerous state of community relations in Northern Ireland was illustrated yet again at the weekend when a loyalist mob stormed a Catholic church and attempted to set fire to it, writes David McKittrick.

Some 27 RUC officers were injured in disturbances which centred around a loyalist band parade in Ballymena, Co Antrim. Police fired plastic bullets to disperse crowds and made several arrests.

Nearby, vandals attacked the grave of Gregory Taylor, the RUC officer who was last weekend kicked to death by loyalists in a neighbouring town. Wreaths were scattered around the cemetery and gloating graffiti has appeared.

The incidents indicate that sectarian temperatures are high as a tense marching season approaches.

Police powerless over paedophile's threat

Clare Garner

Parents in Merseyside were stunned at the revelation yesterday that a convicted paedophile who has threatened to reoffend could be returned to their community next week.

The man has told police he is likely to commit a further offence but they cannot act until he does so. The case has renewed calls for the introduction of Britain's Law, in Britain of Megan's Law, adopted by 42 states in America, which compels authorities to notify parents if a paedophile moves into their locality.

Parents shopping in Huyton, the Liverpool district where the man lived in a hostel prior to his recent detention, demanded that his identity be

made public. Karen Cleary, who has a three-year-old son, said: "We should be able to see a picture of him and be told where he lives. There are lots of children living around here and they do play out and hang around outside all the time. It is very frightening for parents."

In 1990 the paedophile was sentenced to nine years jail at Manchester Crown Court for the rape and sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl. He was released after six years but arrested last month for breach of the peace. He is being detained under the Mental Health Act for 28 days and is due to be released in eight days time.

Some police fiercely oppose the introduction of a Megan's Law, so-named after Megan

Kanka, a seven-year-old raped and murdered by a convicted paedophile who moved into the New Jersey street where she lived. They fear that identified paedophiles - or those mistaken for them - would be the target of vigilantes. Paedophiles, they say, would be driven underground where police and social workers would be unable to monitor their activities.

Fr Michael Lee, of St Columba Catholic Church, Huyton, said he would be praying for the protection of all children. "If these people can be helped, then we should try to stop them doing these awful things. But I also believe people in this community need to be warned about any danger to them and their children," he said.



Headhunting returns to the

The Dayaks came into the square. One of them was carrying a head, another had what looked like a piece of wet tongue. He said 'this is a heart', raised it to his mouth and then started to eat it.

The jungle makes quick work of flesh, and it is four months since these were human beings. But human they still recognisably are – beneath the encroaching undergrowth, and the artificial fibres of the cheap clothes, are arms, legs and vertebrae. Here, jutting out of a pair of stained shorts, is a pelvis, and above it, a nest of curved ribs. There are five skeletons and their clothes show that all were women. Only one thing is missing: none of the skeletons have skulls. And, according to the rubber tappers who brought us here, there was something else strange about these bodies, before the jungle gnawed their flesh away. Apart from the absence of heads, each had deep wounds through which their hearts had been removed. A few minutes of backing through the jungle leads to a pair of skulls beneath a tree, along with traces of baby clothes. Five minutes further on, just off the road leading into the small town of Salatiga, is the settlement where these people might once have lived. The small tin-roofed mosque is untouched, hut around it is a scene of devastation: house after house – simple wood and plaster hangarows, once the homes of migrant farmers, rubber tappers and gold prospectors – has been reduced to charred beams, molten glass and corrugated iron. The destruction is eerily selective. Further down the road one house stands untouched amid a neighbourhood of ruins. In the centre of Salatiga itself, the town goes peacefully about its business. Customers shelter from the sun at a little restaurant, and a fruit truck is loaded with ripe durians. On the other side of the road, facing this picturesque activity, is a burned black expanse, where some 30 houses must once have stood. Such incongruous scenes are repeated all along this road which links Pontianak, the capital of Indonesia's West Kalimantan province, with the inner reaches of Borneo, one of the world's biggest and most impenetrable islands. Even now Salatiga, along with dozens of even more obscure settlements, looks like the scene of a recent war. But four months ago, according to local people interviewed last week by *The Independent*, the situation was even more shocking.

Headless, mutilated bodies of men, women and even children lay alongside the road. Skeletons sprawled in the ruins of the smoking houses. Gangs of local Dayak tribesmen, wearing T-shirts and war paint, carrying spears and swords as well as rifles, patrolled the jungle, hunting down the fugitive remnants of the Madurese settlers whose houses they had torched. Those whom they did catch up with, like the wretched women now lying in the jungle, were shot or stabbed, and then decapitated. Then, according to witnesses, their hearts were pulled from their warm bodies and eaten. Such accounts, along with these photographs obtained by *The Independent* from a local amateur photographer, represent the first firm evidence of what until now has been little more than shocking rumour: an ethnic war, of scarcely imaginable savagery, in Indonesia, one of Asia's most powerful economies and the fourth largest nation in the world. It has claimed hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives, and made thousands more homeless. For the government in Jakarta, which virtually denies its existence, it is a nightmare in a country of 200 million people and 300 ethnic groups, founded on the motto, "Unity in Diversity".

Worst of all, it demonstrates the extraordinary survival of tribal traditions which were assumed to have died out generations ago. Apart from its human cost, this is a war terrifying in its savagery, fought according to ancient and merciless traditions of head hunting, cannibalism and witchcraft. Just a couple of hours' drive from a modern city of banks, airlines and hotels. The warring parties are two of Indonesia's diverse ethnic groups: the Dayaks and the Madurese. The Dayaks are the original inhabitants of Borneo, infamous during the 19th century as the archetypal Victorian "savages". For thousands of years, before the arrival of Dutch and British colonists, they dominated Borneo, a scattered collection of tribes who lived in communal longhouses,

practised a form of animism, and survived by hunting, and by slash and burn agriculture. More sensational, to the Victorian mind, was the habit among Dayak men of driving metal pins through their penises. Dayak warriors increased their prestige, and brought good luck to their villages, by collecting the heads of rival tribes in ritualised, set-piece raids. The victim's heart, brains, and blood were believed to bestow potency on those who consumed them, and the heads were preserved and worshipped. The Dayaks' bloodier traditions were outlawed by the

have been claimed or forcibly purchased for industrial forestry, rubber and mining projects. "Day by day, the Dayaks are being driven away," says Stephanus Djueng, director of the Institute of Dayakology Research and Development in Pontianak. "It's more than 50 years since Indonesia became independent but the education of Dayaks is very much less than the average because they can't earn decent incomes. They don't have the chance to study, so they can't enter official positions. They have no opportunities, and they're putting things right in the only way they know how."

burnings and for violent incidents during last month's election campaign. Madurese transmigrants are accused of occupying Dayak land, often as part of official government resettlement programmes, but the differences run deeper than that. The Madurese are proud bearers of curved sickles; Dayak tradition abhors the public flaunting of blades. The Dayaks hunt and rear pigs; the Madurese are strict Muslims. Tension and occasional violence between the two are as old as the first Madurese arrivals in Kalimantan, early this century, but never on the scale of the past few months.



Rotting clothes lie in the jungle as a reminder of slaughtered Madurese villagers

Christian colonists and, since the defeat of the Japanese in 1945, they have been full citizens of the Republic of Indonesia. Today Dayaks keep their penis pins hidden beneath jeans and T-shirts. Most longhouses have been replaced by simple homes of wood and plaster. Every community has at least one church, but despite their superficial modernisation, belief in spirits remains widespread, and the key moments in the rice cycle are still marked by shamanistic ceremonies. Above all, Dayaks remain marginalised, with low standards of health and education, and little representation in politics, local government or business. Their traditional lands

Overwhelmingly, West Kalimantan is owned, administered, and profited from by migrants from other parts of south-east Asia, principally Malays, Chinese, Javanese, and a minority of Madurese. Madura is a dry, barren island off the east coast of Java, whose people have a national reputation for coarseness, armed violence and an uncompromising form of Islam. Like the Dayaks, they are poor, and the government has dealt with this by transplanting them to the more fertile islands of the outer archipelago where they inevitably become the neighbours that nobody wants. Justly or unjustly, Madurese have been blamed for numerous church

It began on 30 December when a couple of young Dayaks were stabbed, apparently by Madurese, at a concert in the town of Sanggau, close to the border with Malaysian Sarawak. News of the attack spread and over the next four days some 5,000 Dayaks attacked and burned Madurese homes. At least 6,000 people fled to the coastal town of Singkawang, but the numbers of dead are unknown. Andreas, a Catholic priest (like all witnesses of killings, his name has been changed to protect his identity), was in the town of Selamban on New Year's Day. "The Dayaks started coming into the market square, about 1,000 of them," he says.

"They were wailing like Indians in a Western, 'Who-woo-woo-woo'. One of them was carrying a head, and another guy came up to me holding something that looked like a piece of wet tongue. He said, 'This is a heart', and raised it to his mouth and started eating it in front of my face."

Officials from Pontianak and leaders of the two communities hastily beat out a peace agreement, but on 29 January violence blew up again, when a Dayak school was burned down in a predominantly Madurese area of Pontianak. Two Dayak girls were stabbed and cars travelling through towns north of Pontianak were stopped by Madurese and a handful of Dayak motorists were lynched. Dayak outrage expressed itself in ritual form, as the "Red Bowl" was passed round from village to village. "The Red Bowl is a symbol of communication, used to call people to war in a time of emergency," says Fr Yereinis, a Dutch priest who has lived in the village of Menjalin for 16 years.

The leaders came up with three conditions. Not to burn down any mosques; not to burn any state-owned buildings; and no looting. They only killed Madurese, not Javanese or Malays. They wanted to emphasise that their grievance was with the people, not with Islam or the government, and that they were not criminals. Apart from that they killed without exception – from chickens to old people to babies. No exceptions at all. Crowds of Dayaks gathered spontaneously with spears, home-made guns, and a traditional machete called a *mandau*. Tribal generals, called *panglima*, addressed the war parties who were observed by onlookers to enter a kind of trance. According to traditional belief, this is explained by the presence in their bodies of chaotic war spirits called *teru*. The only thing which will appease the *teru* is human blood and heads. Sabdi, a Dayak teacher from Salatiga, described the spectacle when the war party arrived on the morning of 1 February. "I was watching from my bedroom when about 1,000 Dayaks arrived in town. A lot of the

Madurese had already run away, but about 50 stayed behind to defend their houses. Three of them got shot – Sinem, Marsuli, and another man. Dayaks cut their heads off with swords. Then they cut open their backs and pulled out the hearts, and they ate the hearts and drank the blood. For four days, Dayaks hunted down Madurese hiding in the jungle. One man, a settler from Java who was spared by the Dayaks, believes that over the course of five days he saw many as 60 heads and a few decapitated bodies. Stephanus Djueng's account leads him to believe that 300 Madurese died in Salatiga alone, and perhaps 1,000, including 100 Dayaks, lives in the conflict. Fr Yereinis estimates is 4,000 dead. The government acknowledges more than 300.

Even according to the official figures, some 2,500 houses were destroyed before, in February, when the local military, reinforced by elite units from other parts of Indonesia, finally brought the situation under control. Road blocks and landmines were deployed to prevent Dayaks reaching the large Madurese community in Pontianak. Journalists who tried to enter the affected area were arrested and sent back. The border with Malaysia was closed (to prevent Dayaks from Sarawak coming to the assistance of their Indonesian brethren), and a news blackout was imposed on hospitals and police stations.

The official line, explained by Captain SW Subadi of the West Kalimantan police, is that the riots were individual squabbles, which got out of hand, with the encouragement of mysterious "third parties". "It is finished," he said last week. "It was based on misunderstanding between the two communities, and it's absolutely finished." Others are not so sure. Last Tuesday evening on the outskirts of Salatiga, two Dayak men approached carrying torches, rifles, and swords. They laughed when they saw our faces. "We thought you were Madurese," they said. What if we had been Madurese, we asked. "We would have killed you, of course. All the Madurese must leave Kalimantan. Not one of them may stay."

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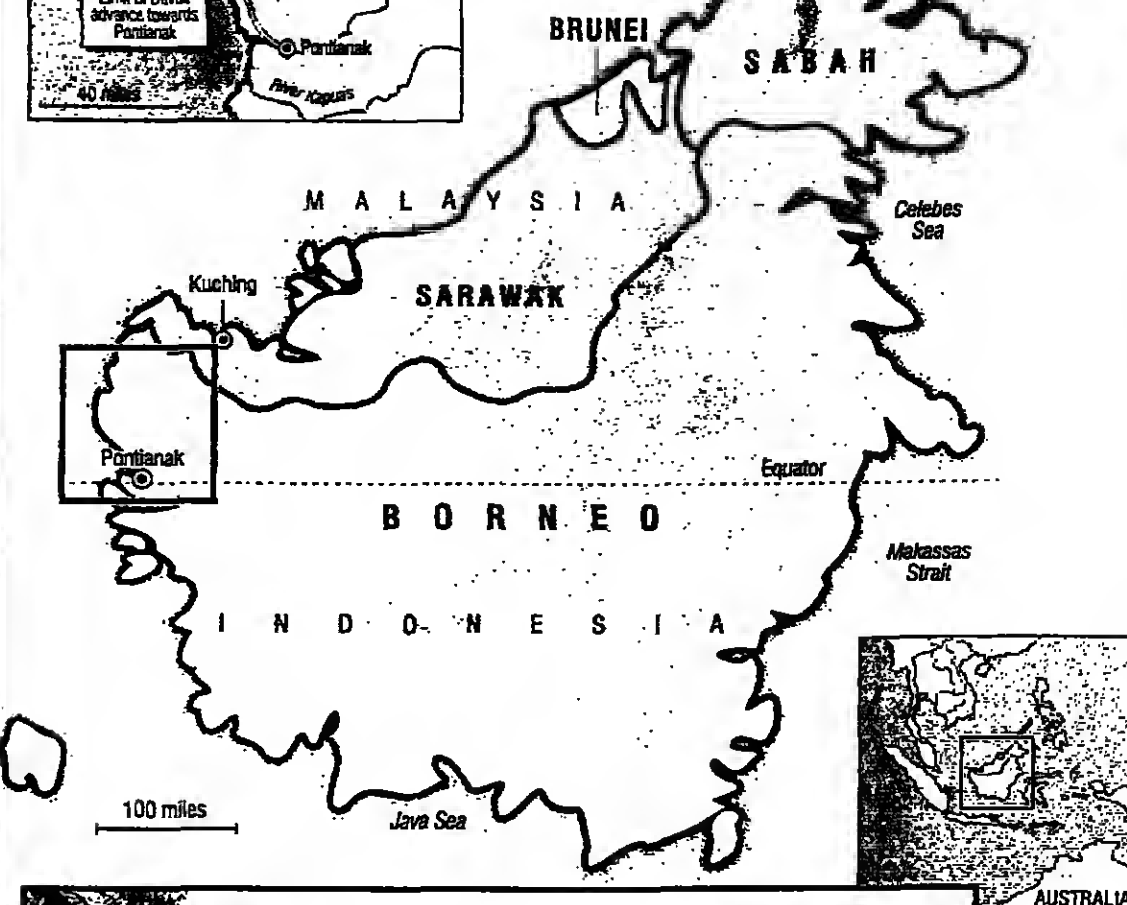
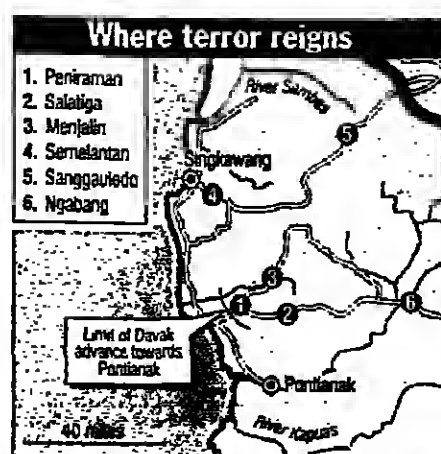
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jungles of Borneo



A human skeleton (main picture) found in a burnt-out house used as a hiding place by Madurese during attacks by Dayaks, seen gathering (top) in Senakin village for war, many coming from the Bornean interior, carrying wooden spears, rifles, mandau (swords) and arrows. Dayak members of the regional parliament attempted to pacify the crowd, and urged them to return to their villages, but some stayed to look for Madurese. The charred remains of Madurese homes (above) on the road between Salatiga and Mandor, burnt in the attacks

Photographs:
Richard Lloyd Parry



Catalogue of rising bloodshed

1981: Publication of *The Head-Hunters of Borneo* by the explorer, Carl Beck.
30 December 1996: Two Dayaks stabbed during an argument with Madurese youths in Sanggau. Four days of violence follow, during which 5,000 Dayaks burn and kill in Madurese settlements close to the Malaysian border. 6,000 Madurese refugees arrive in the city of Sinkawang.
1 January 1997: Dayaks in Semelantan laund heads of dead Madurese and devour their hearts.
8 January 1997: Dayak and Madurese leaders make a peace agreement.
29 January 1997: A Dayak school in Pontianak, a Madurese suburb of Pontianak, is set on fire. Two Dayak girls are stabbed in their beds.
30-31 January: At least three Dayaks are lynched at Madurese checkpoints in Penrangan, 32km north of Pontianak. The Red Bowl of war, a ritual symbol of war, is passed among the Dayaks.
1 February: Madurese burn Dayak houses in Salatiga. Dayaks across the region burn Madurese houses and kill their inhabitants.
1-4 February: Dayak war parties hunt down and kill hundreds of Dayaks in the jungle areas around Salatiga, Mandor, Paheuman and Ngabang, adjoining the road to Pontianak.
3 February: Unconfirmed reports that 17 Dayaks were killed trying to break through an army roadblock at Sungai Pinyuh.
5 February: Military reinforcements arrive. Malaysia closes its land border with West Kalimantan. Military roadblocks set up and curfew imposed on Pontianak.
18 February: Dayak officials announce a "peace agreement".
22 February: Dayaks burn 60 Madurese houses in Capkal Mandor, 60km north of Pontianak.
4 April: West Kalimantan governor Aspar Aswin asserts in the Jakarta Post that "there are no problems between the Dayaks and Madurese".
29 May: Indonesia holds a general election.
3 June: Dayaks tell *The Independent* they will not rest until every Madurese is either dead or gone from Kalimantan.

A taste for the flesh of humans

Ian Burrell

Despite lasting images of missionaries being cooked and eaten alive in Africa, the practice of eating the flesh of other humans as a staple diet no longer exists even among tribal societies.

Forms of ritual cannibalism still survive in the Amazon, where Mundurucu headhunters are known to eat the flesh of outsiders, and in the Irian delta in Indonesian New Guinea (Irian Jaya) where the Asmat eat dead members of their own tribe as a rite of passage.

Reports of head-hunting and cannibalism of one tribe by another are extremely rare and difficult to substantiate.

Last year, Liberians caught up in fighting in the West African nation's civil war reported that teenage members of the rebel United Liberation Movement had cut out and eaten the hearts of their enemies after cooking them.

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution in 1968 people were reported to have been eaten in the town of Wuxian, south-west China, during clashes between rival factions of the Red Guard.

Other outbreaks of cannibalism have been prompted by circumstance, such as prolonged famine. The former Soviet Union has a shameful record in this regard, with the first cases being recorded in the Volga region during the famine of 1921.

When millions died of starvation in Ukraine during the 1930s some resorted to ambushing strangers and children for food.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union the problem has resurfaced with more than 10 Russians being charged with killing and eating their victims. They included prisoners who ate fellow convicts and a Siberian man who used the flesh of a friend to make ravioli.

Other instances of cannibalism have been linked to acts of depravity, usually due to insanity. The term "cannibal" is derived from the Carib people who were native to the islands of the Caribbean, and were said by European explorers to have a preference for Frenchmen and a detestation for Spaniards.

William Arens, an American professor of anthropology, dismisses the suggestion that whole societies were ever cannibalistic as racist myth.

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Fury as Israel labels US Jews second class

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

A law labelling most American Jews as inadequately Jewish is throwing strain on relations between Israel and the powerful American Jewish community.

The point at issue is the right to convert someone to Judaism. A law now passing through the Israeli Knesset, which gives Orthodox rabbis a monopoly over conversion in Israel itself, has provoked a furious reaction from America's three million Jews who go to a synagogue but are not Orthodox.

"American Jews understand that the State of Israel is casting doubt upon their rabbis and, accordingly, upon the Jewish communities those rabbis serve," says Joseph Alpher, director of the Israel/Middle East office of the American Jewish Community. He says that already American Jews who go to Reform or Conservative rather than Orthodox synagogues, are beginning to refuse to contribute to Israel, where the majority of Jews are Orthodox.

Ironically, the present Bill going through the Knesset with the support of the government is the result of a compromise which was supposed to conciliate American Jews. It is, in effect, a watered-down version of a Bill under which the 200,000 or more Jews converted by a Re-

form or Conservative rabbi in the US would no longer have been recognised as Jews in Israel. "The way Reform rabbis convert in the US is a joke," a senior member of the religious party Shas was quoted as saying. "You buy a certificate for \$20 [£12.50]."

The new law will only derecognise Reform or Conservative conversions carried out in Israel itself. Conversions in the US, Britain and the rest of the world will still be recognised. Even Orthodox rabbis see that derecognition of the right to convert by most American rabbis would lead to anger in the US, but American Jews still consider the legislation a slap in the face.

The conflict is also having important political consequences. Mr Alpher argues that the US Congress has already set a precedent by cutting aid to Israel. Despite the power of the Jewish political lobby, he says American politicians notice when the US Jewish Community is less active in its support for Israel.

He says: "It becomes easier for the US administration to put pressure on Israel."

In practice there is little sign of this. The American-Jewish community has always been one of the major pillars of the Democratic party. But it has exercised unprecedented influence in President Clinton's

administration. "In the National Security Council seven out of 11 top staffers are Jews," says the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*.

But Israel has few allies apart from the US. In the UN vote condemning the construction of the Jewish settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem, the only country joining Israel and the US voting against the condemnation was Micronesia.

Leaders of the US Reform and Conservative movements will arrive in Israel this week to try to work out a compromise. But it will be difficult to dilute the message to American Jews, which one fundraiser described as being: "You are not as good a Jew as the Orthodox."



At least 39 people died as fire swept through an 11th-century Hindu temple at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, southern India, at the weekend, when thousands of pilgrims had gathered for a religious festival. The blaze is believed to have started from a ceremonial fire. Photograph: AFP

They work better together.



Besieged by a fortress mentality

MOSCOW DAYS

I can see it quite clearly amid the trees below the window of my office. Just outside the fence that rings our apartment block, there is a burnt-out black Mercedes. Local gossip has it that the vehicle was destroyed by a Molotov cocktail hurled through the windscreen by a vengeful mafia man.

To the knot of Russian men who have gathered to inspect the wreckage, its sooty hulk is a familiar reminder of the perils of doing business with the wrong people. But to outsiders like me it also suggests that it is a good thing that we have a fence. Though most are delightful, not all of the neighbours should be invited in for afternoon tea.

Like many expatriates in Moscow, I live in a peculiarly protected environment. The entrances to our monolithic complex, built by the Soviet authorities to coop up foreign diplomats and journalists, are blocked by barriers overlooked by guard posts. Security men wander rather aimlessly around the pavements along the foot of the building. The doors can only be opened by a code: they stand next to a small glass booth, usually occupied by a middle-aged woman who watches visitors come and go.

Excessive though this snooping often seems, there is some justification. Over the years, there have been muggings and robberies.

Such is the general mood of unease that several neighbours have taken to employing their own muscle. For a while, every time I walked up the stairs to the office, an oaf would dart out from an adjoining corridor, where he was guarding a businessman's flat, and give me a hostile glare - presumably to deter me from contemplating a bombing mission. Happily, he's gone; but there are bound to be others.

Concern about safety is hardly surprising in a city in which bankers and other businessmen are assassinated with such regularity that their deaths are barely commented upon. A thriving criminal class has filled the vacuum created by the end of the Soviet empire and huddled economic reforms. Not to take sensible precautions would be daft. But in Moscow, a deeper trend is underway, the flowering of an obsession.

By today's standards, our apartment block is positively lax. Those with money - Western executives and newly-enriched Russians - have a widening choice of fortresses in which they can seal themselves off.

And more and more are choosing to do so.

It can cost \$8,000 (£4,900) a month to live in Park Place, a US-managed complex in south Moscow, but there are plenty of people willing to shell out for an apartment in this privately-run Kremlin, in which the passageways are monitored by cameras and security men with earpieces roam the building.

There is no compelling need to go beyond its thick concrete walls, unless it is to work. It has restaurants, cocktail bar, tennis court, nursery school, gym, courier service, shops, bank, travel agent's, and more besides. The owners of luxury cars need not worry about fire bombs or the corrosive effect of freezing winters, as there is a heated underground car park. According to a friend who lives there, one of the residents remained indoors for so long that her small child never saw Russian grass.

All this is, of course, repeating a depressing pattern that has divided society in the United States, South Africa and - increasingly - western Europe. Take, for example, my old stamping ground in Los Angeles. Desperate to attract advertising in a dimly regulated multi-channel world, the local television stations churn out bloody-thirsty, and often wildly exaggerated, stories about crime. The motto among competing news executives is chilling, but accurate: "If it bleeds, it leads."

Bombarded by this gore, the population has grown daily more terrified and distrustful of itself. Those with cash buy more guns and try to hide behind lock and key. Thus, the rise of the gated community - entire villages built behind high walls and electronic barriers.

In Russia, the same process is beginning without the catalyst of a hysterical ratings-crazed news media. If tabloid television ever arrives, it will have plenty of material with which to whip up an even greater froth of fear. During one recent weekend five women were stabbed in Moscow; 22 people died after drinking fake vodka in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk; and 10 Russian soldiers were gunned down after one of their colleagues flipped. You see, the country is at times wild and lawless. But it won't get any better if its elite over-reacts and withdraws from it entirely, cowering from reality in their own very expensive, hermetically-sealed hutches.

Phil Reeves

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Fears over euro plans reach fever pitch

Katherine Butler
Luxembourg

Uncertainty over the new French government's economic policies raised speculation about the future of plans for a single currency to fever pitch as European finance ministers gathered last night in Luxembourg for crucial talks.

Before their meeting ends tonight the 15 ministers will have to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the launch of a strong euro on 1 January 1999 to dispel doubts cast by the Socialist victory in the French elections and by Germany's budgetary crisis. Any sign of cracks will be seized on by the markets as confirmation either that a delay is inevitable or that the euro will be launched on time as a weak currency. But even as they arrived in Luxembourg - officially for a dinner to discuss designs for the eight euro coins - there was still no clear statement from Paris on the

EU waits on decision from France

Jospin government's intentions. All eyes will be on Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the new French Finance Minister who will be asked today to clarify whether he is serious about pre-election job creation promises which would clearly be in conflict with the expenditure-slashing criteria enshrined in the Maastricht treaty. He will also be grilled on France's commitment to the stability pact, which will ensure strict budgetary austerity in the euro zone after the launch.

Mr Jospin has floated signals that he wants to unstick agreement on the rules of the pact, negotiated painstakingly in Dublin last December, to allow more emphasis on employment. The Socialist government also wants a commitment to a "stability council" of euro zone governments to act as a political counterweight to

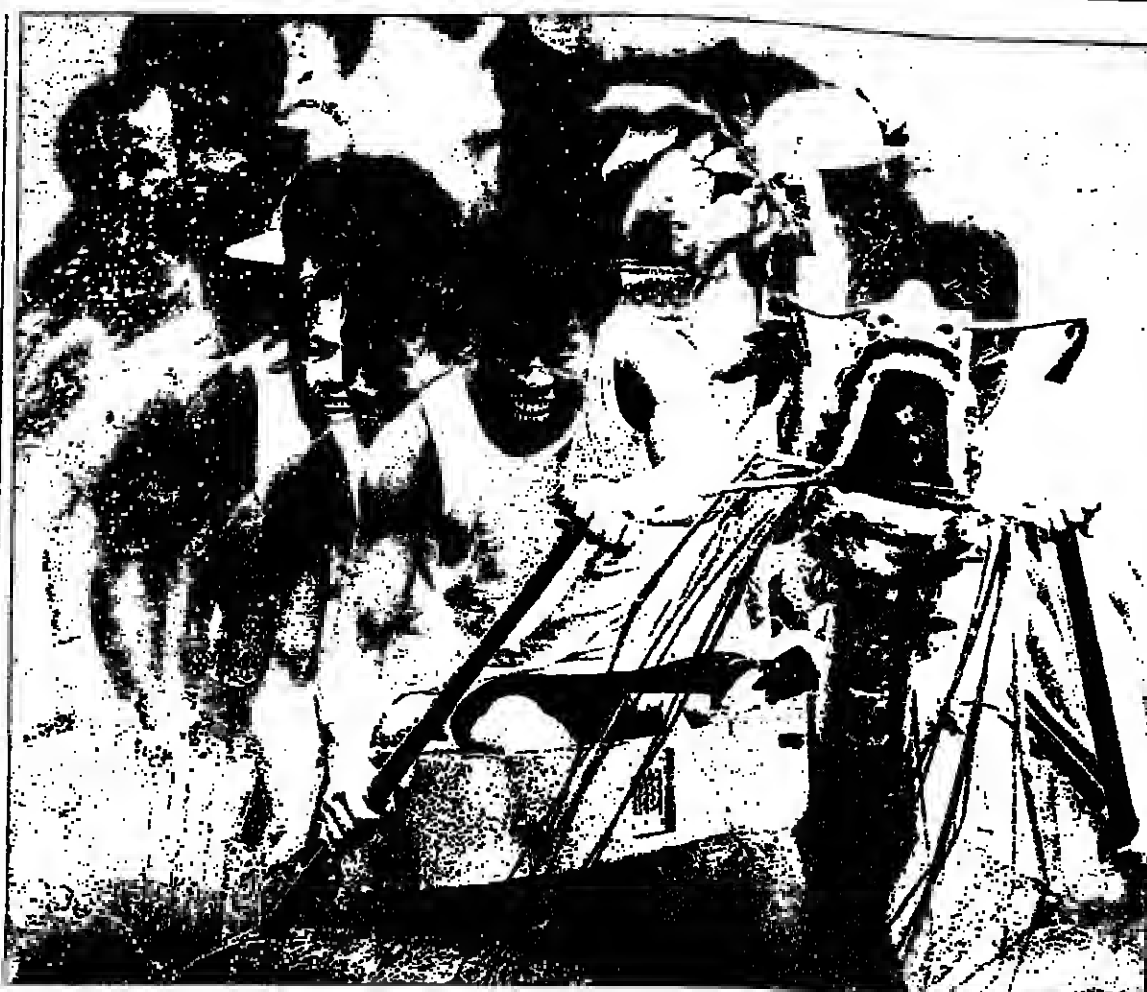
the new European central bank, and to agree economic policy for the Union. Any unravelling of the stability pact rules at this stage could, however, sound the death knell for the credibility of the euro.

Diplomats pointed hopefully to the absence of any formal demand by the French for a reopening of stability pact negotiations but admitted that backsliding now could be fatal. "Meeting the Emu deficit targets by the end of this year is one thing but the stability pact is critical - it is what will give the whole thing credibility and cohesion... If you don't have that you can throw your hat at it," said one source.

Germany masterminded the stability pact as a system of semi-automatic fines to be inflicted on member states who fail to maintain the fiscal rectitude Bonn has always deemed imperative if the

euro is to offer the German public a credible alternative to the mark. It is due to be rubber stamped by the European Union heads of government meeting in Amsterdam in 10 days, so it would be a race against the clock to rewrite the rules at this stage.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister who designed the stability pact, will also have to set minds at rest today as to whether Bonn itself can meet the Emu entry conditions on time. He is meeting European colleagues for the first time since the debacle over his plans to revalue Germany's gold reserves and use the profits to plug a gaping hole in the budget deficit. Mr Waigel's humiliation at the hands of the Bundesbank which forced him to drop the plan has seriously damaged his credibility and robbed Germany of the moral high ground in the debate over which member states should be allowed to join monetary union in the first wave.



Waterwork: Fisherman taking part in a dragon boat race near Cheung Chau, a Hong Kong island, yesterday as part of the celebrations marking today's Chinese Dragon Boat Festival. Photograph: Franki Chan/AP

Italian peace force tortured Somalis

Andrew Gumbel
Rome

During the Gulf War, the joke about the Italian contingent in Operation Desert Storm was that they were providing the ice-cream trucks. In Gabriele Salvatores' film *Mediamano*, the Italian troops invading Greece are portrayed as warm-hearted young fellows who want nothing more than to play football with the locals.

For 50 years, the post-war generation in Italy has liked to think of its armed forces as "bravi gente", nice guys who will stop at nothing to help old ladies and children in trouble but probably don't have the stomach for the brutal business of war. This weekend, that myth has been shattered by horrifying photographs published in two news magazines that tell a singularly nasty story about Italian paratroopers attached to the UN peace mission to Somalia in 1993.

Young Somalis are shown stripped naked, beaten and wired up with electrodes attached to their testicles. Somali prisoners are shown being hooded and tied up before having cigarette huts stubbed out on their naked flesh.

One former paratrooper who sold the most graphic photos to *Panorama* magazine, Michele Patruno, says such mistreatment of Somalis was, for a time, routine in his regiment. The Folgore, one of the most fa-

mous in Italy. Prisoners were denied all food and drink except hot peppers, beaten, burned and electrocuted. On patrols, the men from Folgore would vandalise families' water supply and destroy the house if they found so much as a single hutlet inside.

What began as a paranoid fear of clan violence turned into "pure sadism", Mr Patruno said. Prisoners were even thrown against razor wire for the amusement of their captors. Mr Patruno said he had heard of about five or six deaths as a direct result of torture.

The revelations have acted like a bombshell in Italy, prompting a number of judicial and internal investigations and one call by a small government party to disband the Folgore regiment. The Folgore has a reputation for lingering profascist tendencies, which in turn have caused concern about its present involvement in the Italian-led mission in Albania.

The Somalis have reacted energetically to the scandal, opening law suits on 43 cases of alleged human rights violations, including 11 murders and 19 instances of torture. Interviewed in Mogadishu by Agence France Presse, one garage owner called Ahmed Mo-ah Mohammed described being hooded, tortured and thumped with sandbags by the Italians. "They used me like an ashtray," he said, showing the burn marks still visible on his body.

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Turkish general admits war on Kurds continuing

General Cevik Bir, Turkey's second highest-ranking military official contradicted the Prime Minister yesterday and said a three-week-old offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq was continuing.

The contrasting statements reflected the deep and growing division between the armed forces and the government of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who is trying to put a greater Muslim stamp on Turkish society.

Up to 50,000 troops, backed by tanks and airpower, crossed the border on 18 May to wipe out rebel bases in northern Iraq. AP - Ankara

Hell's Angel held over shooting

A Hell's Angel was arrested yesterday and charged in connection with the killing of a rival Bandidos hiker gang member outside a popular northern Denmark restaurant.

Three other Bandidos were wounded, two of them seriously, but were said to be in stable condition. The arrested man, whose name was not released, was the owner of a car used in the shooting in Liseløje, a summer resort 27 miles north of Copenhagen. AP - Copenhagen

Israel forces settlement issue

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met yesterday to try to revive stalled peace talks, but the session began only after Israel extracted a denial of reports it had agreed to a freeze on building Jewish settlements. The meeting between teams led by Palestinian Saeb Erekat and Israel's Dani Naveh was overshadowed by what had or had not been promised to bring it about. AP - Cairo

US offers Kabila olive branch

The United States will offer Congo's new government military co-operation as an incentive to maintain human rights standards, US officials said yesterday. President Laurent Kabila, agreed this weekend to allow UN officials to investigate alleged refugee massacres. AP - Kinshasa

Bed and board Howard's way

Howard Hodgson – the man who, in spite of a Lesley Judd meets Kenny Dalglish hairdo, managed to make undertaking quite a bit sexy – was booted out as chief executive of Ronson last week. Actually, he resigned.

But if he hadn't resigned, he would have been booted out, so it amounts to much the same thing. And, yes, he is jolly cross. Not so much with what happened, but more with the coverage.

As the tabloids had it, Mr Hodgson was asked to stand down because Christine Pickles, the company's corporate development manager, had become his mistress and the other directors did not take kindly to this swashbuckling juxtaposition of boardroom and bedroom. Miss Pickles, it was reported, was even promoted to finance director at one point.

Mr Hodgson very much wishes this story had not gone about. "It's just not true," he cries. Plus it's been very hard on Christine. "The idea that this girl got on in the world by getting her leg over... is just so unfair."

Yes, Christine is his lover. She has been since 1994, since he first joined the company. But he never let it interfere with the running of the business, even abstained when her prurientions were voted upon. He says he was asked to resign because, even though he had taken Ronson from a dwindling lighter firm to one which offered "a whole range of male grooming products", the profits were not being realised quickly enough. He was sad to go, he says, but isn't bitter. The non-executive directors who wanted to get shot of him are all very old bankers. "I'll still be going about being brilliant when they're in their boxes," he says.

And it's not as if he exactly needed the job, is it? Or, as he puts it, he made so much money when he sold his funeral empire that even if he never worked again he could still live very nicely and leave "at least £1.5m to each of my children".

What Howard effectively did was take over his family's ailing funeral firm in 1975 and build it into the highest quoted firm of undertakers in the country. By 1990, Howard Hodgson plc had a capital value of £100m, employed 2,000 people and did 68,000 funerals a year, which meant Howard was burying one in 10 of the nation's dead. He sold his share to a French company in 1991 because, quite frankly, the offer was too good to refuse. He made £7m. He thought he would retire and write books. He did write one book, *How To Become Dead Rich*, but did not enjoy himself. "I hated it. I'm a team player."

The book was not a roaring success in sales terms. He has a garage full of them. ("If you want a rare Hodgson book, get one that isn't signed.") A copy sits between us on the coffee table.

Howard points at it and says: "If you look in the index, you'll actually find more references to Margaret Hilda Thatcher than there are to Howard Hodgson!" Yes, he is very much a classic product of the Thatcher age of enterprise and, yes, he misses her horribly. The current lot, he says, are "a pathetic shower". He is much amused by attempts to promote William Hague as the dashing, sexy leadership candidate. "I've a better chance at pulling than him," he says. "And, at 47, I'm 11 years older."

Howard and Christine live in Poole, Dorset, in a big modern job behind one of those Beverly Hills-style electric gate things. It is Christine, who also stood down from Ronson last week, who lets you in. She is 32 and very pretty and utterly devoted to Howard. She seems to live mostly in the kitchen, for some reason. Howard refers to her either as "my current girlfriend" or "GFP". "Get us a coffee, GFP," he bellows from the sitting room. GFP? "Greasy Fat Pig." How charming. "It's an endearment," he stresses. Will they ever marry? Hang on, he says, he isn't divorced from his wife yet. Does Christine want to marry? "Of course. She's from Lancashire."

Inside, the house is all thick carpets and ruched curtains and latted radiator covers and antiques which may be the real thing but don't look it and all the rest. The overall effect is very Bar-jatt's meets Fads via the reproduction furniture department at John Lewis. I do not get to go upstairs, but guess there's a Jacuzzi, frilly skirts around the dressing tables and, in the master bedroom, those white fitted wardrobes which Page Three girls always seem to hanker after. I think they go by the name of Schreiber.

Think upmarket Schreiber and I reckon you are there. However, what you notice most are the silver-framed photographs, which are everywhere. There are lots of Howard's children (Howard, 22; Jamieson, 14; Davinia, 7), but there are many more of Howard, and you get the full pictorial tour. "This is me as a baby, me as a child, me on my boat, me meeting Richard Branson..." Howard is quite deliciously vain, and the only person I've ever met who drops his own name in conversation. The staff at Ronson, he says, have been faxing him constantly to say: "The building is not the same without Howard Hodgson! Should anyone ever make a film about his life, he confesses he would like Sean Bean to star because "he looks quite like me and is strong". I do not suggest Kenny Dalglish or Lesley Judd as too much suitable alternatives. His heartbreak would, I fear, be too much to bear. (Howard, it's really time for the hairdo to go. I later tell him. "But it's so me," he cries in reply.)

Howard comes from Birmingham, from a line of local funeral directors. Hodgson & Son of Hockley, founded in 1850. His father, Paul, was the fourth Hodgson in charge. The business did very well up until his father.

Howard loved his father very much. "He was very handsome, very charismatic. He looked like Errol Flynn and drank like him."



Formerly the rock star of the funeral world, Hodgson confesses that, in a film of his life, he would like Sean Bean to star because "he looks quite like me and is strong" Glynn Griffiths

He liked the good life – Aston Martins and fast women and slow horses. He was a good funeral director but a useless businessman. He would say: "I've just met this marvellous chap. We're going to go into business together." And I would have to say: "Father, hasn't it ever occurred to you that the chaps you meet in private drinking clubs in the middle of the afternoon might not be great successes?"

His mother, Sheila, was often irritated by her husband's lack of competence. "Let Howard do it. He is much better at such things," she would often say to him, while Howard went "no, no, no" inside. He hated to see his father belittled. His mother is still alive and still as tough as anything. "She makes Margaret Thatcher look like a gay liberation worker for lesbians in Lambeth. If I'm invited for lunch and I'm not prompt she will say: 'Howard, I don't care who you are. Lunch in this house is at 1pm and I'll thank you to remember that.'"

Howard was educated privately in England, and then, from 14, in Switzerland because he suffered from asthma and it was thought the air would do him good. He remembers his parents taking him to Switzerland, walking him half-way to his school then leaving him at a bend in the road. You go on, they said, while we turn back. "I was very British about it," he remembers.

"I kissed my mother on her cheek. I shook my father's hand. I started to walk, but something made me look back just as my father was looking back. My mother was still walking purposefully on. Anyway, I ran back, jumped in my father's arms and burst into tears. My father had always been wonderful to me, especially as a young man. When I had the asthma it was my father who stayed up all night, wiping away the vomit and everything. When he died (in 1985) I wept and wept and wept, not only with love, but also with regret. In my silly, English way I had never told him how much I loved him."

Howard first joined the family firm pretty much direct from school. But, initially, he didn't stay long because he fell out with his father when his father divorced his mother for someone else, then tried to hang on to her money. Howard took his mother's side. His father was appalled. And sacked him. Howard went off, became a very successful insurance salesman, and married a Frenchwoman, Marianne, the mother of his children.

The first time he introduced Marianne to his mother, his mother warned her: "You have to get used to the Hodgson men. They marry ladies but fuck tarts."

Well, it makes a change from. "Where would you like your wedding list, Selfridge's or Peter Jones?"

Anyway, Howard was doing very nicely for himself when, in 1975, his father came to tell him the business was in trouble – on the brink of receivership. In fact – what should he do? Howard's answer was to buy it off him for £14,000 and then go on to build up a great chain of funeral firms.

In a sentence, he did this by endlessly acquiring, asset-stripping, keeping any local family names but centralising control, and introducing schemes such as the wonderfully named *Destiny with Dignity* whereby people could pre-pay for their own funerals.

Although he grew up immersed in the culture of death – one Christmas, he got a cowboy fort made out of coffin off-cuts – he was not prepared when, in 1983, one of his children died. No parent ever is. "When I was a young guy and I had to do a child's funeral, I thought, what am I going to say to these people? How will they ever live again?" Widows were a different matter. He had a set patter for them. He would say: "I know today has been a difficult day. You were married for how many years? 48. And you have 11 children plus how many grandchildren? 72. And here they are all around you."

"Sometimes, I take ladies home and they have no one..." This always cheered the widows up no end. But when it came to children, "I always handled it very badly."

His son Charles, who would now be 18 had he lived, drowned when, aged three, he wandered unnoticed into a swimming pool during a family holiday in Thailand. Howard says Marianne coped much better than he did because she howled and let all her grief out, whereas he couldn't. "I would go to work, come home, then sit and stare at the walls in some kind of frozen state. I didn't cry until two years later when I was in the bath and suddenly burst into tears. Marianne came rushing in to ask what was wrong. "I'm crying for Charlie," I said.

He was most helped, he says, by a crematorium organist, as unlikely as that sounds. "This guy would play 'Light My Fire' or 'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother' as the coffin was going in. But he'd disguise the tunes in such a way only I knew he was doing it. I used to say to him afterwards 'You little shit. The family are asking what the lovely music was.' " Anyway, this bloke wrote some tunes to which Howard set lyrics.

He wrote mostly about Charles, and found it immensely therapeutic. He has a tape of the songs somewhere. He says he did not commit "any acts of impropriety" until 14 years into his marriage, when he started appearing in colour supplements and winning titles such as *Businessman of the Decade* and he became the rock star of undertaking and it all went to his head rather. City PR girls threw themselves at him. He was flattered. He could not resist.

He left Marianne in 1992 for one of these PR girls. No, he couldn't have just had a discreet dalliance with her. City girls, he complains, don't go in for casual sex any more. He blames

feminism. "The biggest enemy to women has been feminism. Feminism told girls to go out and be like boys and earn and have sports cars. Men find this threatening and don't want to marry them. There's now this whole plethora of girls wandering around the City, desperate to get married. They don't want casual relationships. They want committed ones." His main grumble with feminism, I reckon, is that it put an end to the quick shag.

You know, after meeting Mr Hodgson I go away bothered, and remain bothered for some days. This isn't because he is horrid in any way. It's because he reminds me of someone and I cannot put my finger on it. Then, mid-riddle in Tesco, it suddenly comes to me. He reminds me of this hudge my grandmother used to have called Joey.

Joey was a darling thing but all he ever wanted to do was sit on his little swing and peck at his reflection in the mirror all day. Whenever you opened the door of his cage to give him a fly-shoot, he would always give you a look that said: "Excuse me. I'm having a very nice time admiring myself in here. Please shut my door and go away." And I reckon Howard is rather like this too. The business was his mirror. Then it was girls.

Now, I'm not saying Mr Hodgson isn't clever. Or isn't likeable in his swashbuckling, old-fashioned, Thatcherite way. (Yes, when his son died, he did think "Why me, and not one of those silly girls in the *Daily Mail* who seem to drop nine babies a week?") Certainly, he is more entertaining than Joey ever was. And he offers better claret and is cleaner in going about his toilet. But, like Joey, he never tires of kissing his own reflection.

Interview

Deborah Ross
talks to

HOWARD
HODGSON



And the happy couple were atheists

Earnest? Joyless? No, writes Lynne Wallis, this humanist wedding was fun – and deeply moving

When a close friend announced last year that she was getting married, I was delighted. She'd had a series of unsuitable partners, and finally she'd found someone she loved who really cared about her. But when she explained that it was to be a humanist ceremony, my enthusiasm waned. I didn't know exactly what a humanist wedding entailed, but I knew it wouldn't be legally recognised. The whole idea sounded to me like PC gone mad, and if they weren't married in the eyes of the law, what was the point? Although I'm not especially religious myself, I couldn't help thinking: if you're going to take the plunge, there's nothing quite like a traditional church wedding, with ing quite like a traditional church wedding, with confetti, posh hats, saucy best man's speeches and weeping aunts. A bunch of people standing around under a cherry tree holding hands didn't hold quite the same appeal. But before I knew it, the invitations had gone out and the glorious day was upon us.

As atheists, the couple chose to have a humanist ceremony first, backed up by a registrar office the following weekend, more to keep their families happy than for any need they felt to legalise their vows.

They hired a huge 14th-century country house in Sussex for their wedding weekend. Such

opulence certainly hadn't been part of my idea of an "alternative" wedding. The house slept 20 and came with pool, tennis courts, sauna and fabulously well kept grounds. The bride and groom welcomed their 80 or so guests at the door, she in a stunning blue satin, full-length, boned bodiced dress with a net wrap around her shoulders; he in a trendy wool suit and clogs.

The crowd was ushered through to an elegant drawing-room for the ceremony, while the bride and groom escaped for a few minutes to prepare themselves for their big moment. Grannies, parents and elderly aunts sat at the front in comfy sofas and armchairs, while remaining guests stood in this now rather full room. The scent of lilies wafted in from the hall and there wasn't a sound as the bride and groom walked in and sat down, facing their guests, in two high-backed wooden fairy-tale chairs, like the King and Queen of Hearts, ready to vow their love for each other. It was such an emotionally loaded moment that clapping them seemed appropriate, so we did. I'd imagined some dreary, earnest types dressed down for the occasion in defiance of tradition, rather than up. Instead, here was a room full of colour, sparkle and excited anticipation, with no sombre priest or po-faced organist to dampen the mood.

The couple could have arranged for a "celebrant" from the Humanist Society to perform their ceremony. Instead, they opted for one of the groom's two best men, who explained what the ceremony entailed and proceeded expertly to "MC" it. The bride had a six-strong coven of best women – she had so many close female friends that she'd feel unable to pick a "best" one.

Friends each read some quotations chosen by the bride, from Jane Austen to the 10th-century poet Frau Ava. The last two, love poems, moved the groom almost to tears, which of course started the whole room off. There were speeches from the bride's mother and father, blessings, asked of grandparents and willingly given ("we've only been waiting for four years!") and finally the couple's vows, written by themselves. They promised to look after each other and love each other in the future, whatever that might hold, then exchanged simple gold bracelets and kissed.

Seeing their faces as they took their vows made the whole thing more meaningful, for me, than anything else could have, and it made me question the sense of church weddings, where the only person to see the important bit close up is someone the couple possibly met only a few days before, at rehearsals. Here, there was

n't a dry eye in the house. OK, God was out of the picture, and so for the moment was the law, but these two now regarded themselves as husband and wife, fully committed to their relationship for the future.

The bride invited a photographer friend to take candid shots whenever he could, and the results are better than any posed wedding album photographs I've ever seen. So, instead of an hour of posing, it was straight through to the dining-room for an excellent lunch, followed by the traditional bit the couple were keen to retain: champagne toasts and cutting of cake on the lawn outside. At about 5pm, everyone drifted off for sleep, tennis or swimming, then reassembled for an evening party, or rather, parties. The groom's dad led a piano-accompanied sing-song in the smoking-room, some exhausted parents sat in the kitchen chewing the fat, while the more energetic of us pranced about to hits of the Eighties.

So shame on me. This wedding ceremony wasn't some petty, two-fingers-at-the-establishment act of rebellion. It was, simply, what they wanted. So hats off to humanist weddings, or should that be hats on?

The Humanist Society (0990 168 122).

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the leader page

Now be tough on the causes of deprivation

Shh. Can you hear the slithering of the buck when we discuss the Causes of Bad Things? It hardly matters which of society's ills we are talking about—smoking, driving while talking on a mobile phone, violence, unemployment—there is a natural progression of blame. The first step is to condemn individuals' failings, but if that were all that were needed the previous government would have eradicated crime, not tripled it. It was one of the new Prime Minister's simplest insights to say that by looking to the causes of wickedness we do not excuse it. So we must then ask why people behave badly and try to change the way they behave—through education. If only we could teach children "the difference between right and wrong", or that drugs screw you up, or that crossing the road is hazardous, then all would be well. Jesuits have long applied the principle that if you can get to the child, you can shape the adult. But the more we pursue the causes of social ills, the clearer it is that we are on a treadmill running backwards. Secondary school is too late for sex and drugs education, so it has to be started at primary school. But primary school is too late for moral education. And much schooling effort is hindered or negated at home. Off bounces the huck: the root cause of crime and anti-social behaviour must be bad parenting.

Step forward the arch-villain of mod-

ern malaises, the Bad Parent—usually the father. Vandalism? Dad wasn't there to exert discipline. Unemployment? Dad didn't care about homework. Lone mothers? Deadbeat dads abandoned them.

At last, help is at hand. No, not a Labour government dedicated to the notion of the "strong family". We are talking about self-help (see page 3). A book, *How to Succeed as a Parent*, is about to be published. So all the guilty fellows lurking in the shadows need do is read and inwardly digest the handy hints and lists of dos and don'ts?

Unfortunately not. The most important advice from the book's author, Steve Chalke, is for fathers to be there. Time is the "greatest gift" a father can give to his child. But, 10 years after the breakdown of a relationship with the mother, half of all fathers have lost contact with their children. Mr Chalke does not actually attend to the real problem of parenting in broken and deprived families, but to the rather different one of the guilt of middle-class parents. Attitudes towards good parenting have gone through a revolution since the Fifties. Self-help manuals have transformed fathers' attitudes, especially since the publication of the Gospel According to Dr Spock (never mind that yesterday Dr Spock's sons revealed that the guru of touchy-feely parenthood was himself cold and distant). Nowadays it is considered compul-



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sory, for example, for fathers to be present at the birth of their children.

Mr Chalke's advice (don't say, "I wish you'd never been born") is misdirected at parents who worry that they do not spend enough time with their children. That angst is real, and the debate about "quality time" with one's children is a serious one, but it is a world away from the problems of children who are neglected or abused by their parents—some of whom say, and mean, that they wish their children had never been born.

A survey of teenagers finds that Paul Gascoigne, Grant Mitchell and Prince

Charles are "Britain's worst fathers". The hurrying of distinctions between fact and fiction (Grant is a character in *EastEnders*, whereas Gazza and Chazza are notionally real people) is diverting, although the message is clear: they do not spend enough time with their children. One of Gazza's crimes was to have gone on a drinking spree while his wife gave birth to their son.

But the important difference is between children who have a loving relationship with their parents, but want to see more of them, and those who feel abandoned and want their

parents to love them. This is where the search for the causes of so many social problems ends, and it is no wonder that the interrelated problems of crime, poverty and educational underachievement seem insoluble. We do not hear so much from Tony Blair nowadays about the "causes of crime", because so many of the paths of causation are circular. But it was encouraging that Mr Blair made his first prime ministerial speech on social policy in a south London council estate last week, because although specifics were still missing it suggested that the Government understands how a number of factors interact and reinforce each other, creating a so-called "underclass" of moral and physical deprivation.

A government cannot legislate against bad parenting, or family breakdown, but provided it is not distracted by the punitive simplicities which dictated Conservative policy it can act to break some of the cycles of despair. The issue of child-care and nursery schooling has been caught up in the middle-class guilt trap, because some have argued that children need more time with their parents (who need to work shorter hours) rather than being shunted into the care of more strangers. These are irrelevant arguments when it comes to breaking the cycle of deprivation among lone-parent families on problem estates: these children need to

spend less time with their parents, and their parents (usually their mothers) need to spend less time with their children. Otherwise, lone mothers will continue to be dumped from the labour market for 16 years or more.

From 1979 we had a government which seemed to be applying sticking plaster to the symptoms of growing social problems. Now we have a Prime Minister dedicated to tackling the underlying causes. On this, rather than last week's frothy opinion-poll ratings, his place in history depends.

What price rain on our parade?

The sun is shining, England is winning at football and performing with unaccustomed style on the cricket field. Tony Blair is in his heaven and all is right with the world. Euphoria all round. One nation at least (the one which invented these sports, for goodness sake) feels good about itself. The popular myth is that Harold Wilson won the 1966 election because the voters felt good about winning the World Cup, but of course he won the election before England won the cup. This just goes to show that Labour victories really are the cause of sporting prowess. But not in rugby. And was that a spot of rain?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Business must face a new ethical world

Sir: Your Business Comment (6 June) displays the 1980s "market forces" view of business which is unfortunately still prevalent in the City but hardly anywhere else.

We will not have an ethical foreign policy ("Mr Cook, we are up in arms", 6 June) or ethical home policy while we still have such unethical corporate governance and leadership. The primary purpose of a business is to meet public needs, not to "create wealth" for directors or shareholders. Try telling a bank manager that you are starting up to create wealth—he will look askance and ask you how.

Over recent years businesses have realised the importance of meeting customers' needs, but many, especially in the City, are slow in waking up to the popular public demand for wider social responsibility, which New Labour's roaring success symbolises.

It is no longer acceptable for a few people to feed their greed to the detriment of many others. That is why chain letters are illegal and that is what is wrong with privatised (monopoly) utilities. Even the US has better business ethics legislation than we have.

GORDON GLASS
Director, 2020 Vision Ltd
Bath

Sir: All praise to the Liverpool women campaigning to ban arms exports to Indonesia because of the use of these arms against the people of East Timor ("Mr Cook, we are up in arms").

We should remember that Indonesia has been holding the Western end of New Guinea, so-called "Irian Jaya", since the Sixties. The only rationale for handing it over to Indonesia was that country's status as successor to the Dutch East Indies. The New Guinea people are quite unlike Indonesians.

Since then Indonesia has colonised the country, moving in thousands of Javanese settlers, and terrorised the people. A friend staying in a village in the south of "Irian Jaya" some years ago reports having seen a human hand floating by on the river. Her host was unsurprised, as such sights, he said, were a common result of Indonesian activities.

East Timor is enough reason for keeping arms out of their hands, but not the only reason.

PHILIP SCOTT
Royston, Hertfordshire

Sir: In the interest of public information isn't it time the BBC or Channel 4 commissioned a new fly-on-the-wall documentary series about the fat cats at Camelot and the former public utilities. Once we see how hard these people work and what rare skills and talents they possess we will understand why they award themselves bonuses which, for many of us, exceed the total income from our working lives.

Consultants do inform patients

Sir: As a near contemporary of Dr Phil Hammond (article, 3 May), I suspect that his illustrations of the problems of informed consent for medical procedures are derived from memories of his time as a junior house surgeon. It used to be standard practice to delegate pre-operative counselling to the most



inexperienced member of the team, often with much huffing.

Much has changed since then. Patient expectations are now much higher, sometimes unrealistically so. Publicity over medical mishaps is important in a free society, but often contributes extra worry to patients, even though the scale of media interest reflects how rarely such mishaps occur. Rapid technological advances now bring very complex procedures into routine clinical practice, placing a greater burden of explanation on medical staff.

There has been a move towards a consultant-based, rather than consultant-led service, and "informing" and "consenting" now rest rightly with senior staff. For elective surgery, signature on an NHS standard form of consent does not constitute informed consent, and is a simply a record of agreement to proceed. Each patient must be informed to their own level of satisfaction. This process should begin with the patient's GP and the pre-operative visit to the consultant's clinic. In my own hospital, the form is usually signed in a pre-admission clinic a week before the operation, which provides a further opportunity for patients to meet and question both the doctors and nurses who will be providing most of the patient's care.

As regards the availability of audit results, Dr Phil will be aware that surgeons were the first group of clinicians to voluntarily audit their practice, and it is now compulsory across hospital specialties. An advantage of the current NHS referral system is that even if surgeons do not find out "how their hernias do"—as we can no longer afford follow-up out-

patient appointments following simple procedures—GPs do, and rapidly develop a sense of when performs well or otherwise. Thus consultants do receive regular feedback—either directly, or through lower referral rates. Audit results are increasingly available in medical literature and on institutional Internet Web sites such as our own.

One thing has not changed since Dr Phil's last direct contact with the surgical world. Most NHS consultant surgeons across the nation are still allocated a measly 10 minutes for their new patient consultations. Hopefully this problem has already been earmarked for urgent reform.

MIKE LARVIN
Consultant Surgeon and Honorary Professor of Surgery
Leeds Institute for Minimally Invasive Therapy
Leeds General Infirmary

The benefit families need

Sir: Frances Savin (letter, 6 June) is right in suggesting that the minimum wage cannot be expected to cover the cost of a family. In the 1972-73 select committee on tax-credit the argument for a system of comprehensive support for children which I put forward (together with Professor Kaldor and Professor Abel-Smith) was dismissed on the grounds that it had wide implications for the wage-structure of the country. In our

two-income family society this argument must be taken seriously if equal pay is to be a reality.

We should not however try to go back to a breadwinner/full-time mother society. We need to have a special Family Responsibility Benefit for families with a child under school age. Young children require considerable attention which makes it impossible for both parents to make a normal contribution to family income. Either one parent (usually the mother) is restricted in her ability to earn if she provides this, personally, or the couple have considerable expense in providing substitute care.

It is essential that the family should be free to choose how this care is provided. The present system of support produces a poverty trap and is administratively expensive. Only a special benefit can provide the necessary flexibility. The form of care will vary according to the age and needs of the child and the earning opportunities available to both parents.

MARY TYLER
London NW11

Sir: Earlier this year I presided at the marriage of Emma and Simon. Today they inform me that she is pregnant, and still living with her mother. They hope to live in the village in which her grandfather was the carpenter. The reason they cannot find their own home for their child to be born in is because the council houses have been sold off.

Twenty years ago Emma and Simon would have stood a fair chance to remain in the village of their ancestors. When will the new government initiate a policy of rural housing and housing trusts so that Emma and Simon can remain in their village? The land is here, what we want is the money. Please, Mr Blair, "there is no room in the inn" yet.

The Rev PAUL JENKINS
Singleton, West Sussex

Tide running against salmon

Sir: Your special report on Britain's disappearing wildlife (6 June) fails to mention one of our most threatened species, the North Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

Already classified as endangered by the European Commission and on the ICS list, this magnificent creature is in rapid decline throughout these islands.

The Hampshire Avon counts in scores a salmon run once measured in thousands. The Stour in Dorset supports only a tiny remnant stock, while the Test and Itchen are host only to returning artificially reared stock. The authorities acknowledge that these populations have passed the point where they are able to sustain themselves without intervention.

Add to the many hazards that have caused this near demise, the threat of infection by a lethal parasite called *Gyrodactylus salaris* that has rampaged from the Baltic,

through Scandinavia into France, Germany and Spain, and some might think the cause hopeless.

Salmon lack cuddle appeal. They are wet and rarely visible. They are nevertheless magnificent creatures with a remarkable life cycle: the loss of which, to our British waters, would be as tragic as the loss of the tiger to India.

BRIAN MARSHALL
Chairman, Wessex Salmon Association
Linton, Cambridgeshire

Irish famine and disease

Sir: Professor Byron's views (letter, 7 June) on mortality in the Irish famine of the 1840s are completely wrong.

There is no greater proximate factor in susceptibility to infectious disease than nutritional status. Thus, in relapsing fever, his example, mortality increases by 12-fold, *ceteris paribus*, in a situation of famine (*The Cambridge World History of Human Disease*, ed K Kiple, Cambridge University Press, 1993).

Byron avers that action by health workers during the famine was futile because the disease vector had not been discovered. I draw his attention to the Austrian *condom* sanitaries of the 18th century, which prevented the incursion of the third plague cycle into Europe. Closer to home, look no further than the famous Broad Street pump in London, which John Snow had removed in 1855 to halt a cholera epidemic—30 years before the cholera bacillus was identified. Dr NANU GREWAL
Oriel College, Oxford

The secret of Houdini Harold

Sir: Thank you for the parallels between Tony Blair and Harold Wilson ("The cautionary tale of Labour's last moderniser", 4 June). There are others. If Harold Wilson boxed himself in with an overvalued exchange rate, Tony Blair has boxed himself in by yielding up both of government's main levers on the economy: interest rates to the Bank of England; and taxation to his promises to our much more materialistic electorate.

Houdini Harold escaped and, at the end of six years, the trade deficit of £376m had been turned into a surplus of £871m, the manufacturing investment needed to sustain it had increased by 44 per cent to a level only a little less than it is now and unemployment was only a shade over half a million—and all that without open access to the EC.

In those days we were much clearer about the object of the exercise, which was to shift of resources into industrial investment, in order to give us the trade surplus on which we depended (and still do) for domestic expansion and full employment. Without that clarity of practical purpose I do not see how Tony can do the same trick.

Sir FRED CATHERWOOD,
Bulsham,
Cambridgeshire

Mandarins paid in gongs

Sir: My confidence in your integrity has been shaken by the bland statement in your leading article of 5 June that "Whitehall staff are reasonably paid" and consequently should not expect to be in a group which receives honours for its top few chiefs as a sort of compensation for poor remuneration.

Since 1979, when public service became unfashionable, the Civil Service has been the subject of severe pay restraint and staff cutbacks.

I have four sons, all born between 1955 and 1965. Three are in the private sector (railways, building and advertising). The fourth, who is academically the brightest (first class degree from Oxford), is a senior civil servant in Whitehall. My private sector boys are paid two to four times as much as the civil servant and in no way would they pretend that this was a justifiable disparity.

By all means let us do away with automatic honours, but in the case of the Civil Service please do not justify this on the grounds that the staff are reasonably paid.

PAUL BARRACLOUGH
Seaford,
East Sussex

German worm

Sir: Tiny Shelbourne (Letters, 3 June) offers "earworm" as the most just name for a tune that lodges in the brain, but does not know who first coined it.

Nor do I, but that person presumably spoke German well enough to know the word "*Ohrwurm*" and English not well enough to know that its proper translation is "earwig". Collins German Dictionary gives "*Der Schlager ist ein richtiger Ohrwurm*" as "That's a really catchy record".

LES TELFORD
Flitwick,
Bedfordshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

كانا من الاصل

Smaller companies group presses for a three-tier market

The campaign for a new look stock market is gathering strength. Cisco, the lobby group which represents companies outside the Footsie and the FTSE 250 indexes, may not be particularly powerful or well known but it can claim to have nudged the Stock Exchange into creating AIM, by general consent an outstanding success.

Now it is prudding the Exchange again, this time suggesting it should act on proposals formulated five years ago.

The idea is a three-tier market. Companies in Footsie and the FTSE 250 index should be grouped together in a sort of Premiership, the rest of the fully listed herd should become what would amount to a Nationwide League and, to maintain the football analogy, AIM and Seat shares would create a Vauxhall Conference – or, in Cisco phrasenology, an enterprise market.

It is patently clear that in stock

market terms the requirements of, say, Glaxo Wellcome, differ dramatically from AIM-listed Stanford Rook, even if they are both drug companies.

Of course, the needs of institutional investors and private investors are also vastly different and the same argument can and should be made for introducing systems in accommodation to their respective needs.

Whether a two-tier market for big and small investors will ever emerge is far from clear, but the Cisco initiative for market segmentation may make headway. After all, the Exchange came out in favour of the idea in 1992 and despite five years' inertia remains committed to the multi-market formula.

John Kemp-Welch, the Exchange chairman, drew attention to the need to "have a segmented market-place, providing distinct markets for different types of securities and investors" in a recent speech.

"One size," said Mr Kemp-Welch, "does not fit all," and Katie Morris, Cisco's chief executive, has raised the possibility of companies deserting London for Nasdaq, the American market, or the fledgling Easdaq European market.

Obviously, the days when an aspiring domestic company only thought in terms of a home-grown quote are long gone. Paris and Frankfurt are still small and insignificant share markets, but they are making strenuous efforts to increase their appeal. And Nasdaq and Easdaq have already enjoyed some success in attracting companies which would normally settle for London.

A variety of arguments for segmentation, including differing tax needs, can be produced. But it is internationalisation which could bring things to a head. History shows that regulations get more and more elaborate. As Cisco says: "In order to develop a thriving in-



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

international market, the Exchange may need to increase regulation – quarterly reporting, international accounting standards – and respond to the

heavy influence of US investment houses in areas such as corporate governance. To focus on defending the market in leading stocks without paying due care and attention to the needs of smaller, developing companies is myopic.

It adds: "Smaller companies are important to the economy, making a significant contribution to economic growth and wealth creation. A vibrant market requires a supply of companies willing to submit themselves to rigorous transparency and regulatory rules, therefore being suitable as investment opportunities."

Clearly Cisco fears the Exchange will get carried away by international demands, for-

getting the vast majority of quoted companies.

Cisco could well draw an uncomfortable comparison from the way small investors have been treated in the rush to accommodate the demands of the large investment houses.

Last week, shares seemed mesmerised by New York. So it was appropriate that Legal & General's investment team had a rethink about Wall Street. It believes New York is overvalued and suggests it will remain so in the longer term although a correction could be near.

If L&G is right, yet another part of the argument for a score away Footsie remains in place. 5,000 in a year's time are complete: some suggest it could be approaching 8,000 by the millennium.

Turning to this week, Granada heads a hefty list of company results. The half-time profits, expected to come out at £240m, against £183.5m,

will have been enhanced by a full contribution from the £3.9bn Fortis takeover.

The figures, however, will not be the main market interest. Investors remain fixated by the timing of asset sales, mainly former Fortis businesses.

Still for sale are nine up-market hotels, the Savoy Hotel stake and the computer maintenance side. Other bits and pieces are also on the block. There must be a strong probability that Granada will announce at least one disposal with its figures on Wednesday.

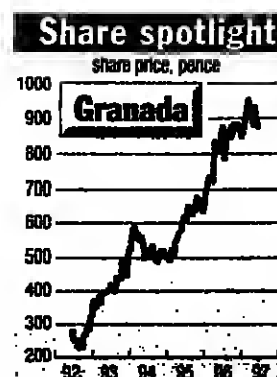
Today BAA, the airports group, lands with year's results – around £440m up from £403m is expected before allowing for a £40m hit over the Terminal Five saga.

The water reporting season continues and Hyder and Severn Trent will do their bit up predictable Westminster reaction. Severn Trent, tomorrow, is expected to report little-

changed profits of £372m, but its strong balance sheet could tempt a substantial dividend increase. Hyder, the Welsh electricity and water combine, will also have divided growth in mind today, with profits some 28 per cent higher at £215m. NatWest Securities suspects Severn will increase its dividend by 11 per cent and Hyder by 14 per cent.

Dairy groups Unigate and Northern Foods are unlikely to offer much in the way of profits. In a year of reshaping, Unigate is forecast to be off some £15m at £110m when it reports today and Northern Foods, tomorrow, should be marginally higher at £128m.

Among others on the results list are Electrolux, which is expected to produce £110m (against £98.9m); Christian Salvesen £26m (£76.6m); FirstBus £75m (£65.7m) and British Land £40.5m (£38.4m).



Alcoholic Beverages										Insurance										Media										Oil Exploration										Oil, Integrated										Other Financial										Pharmaceuticals										Printing & Paper										Property										Retailers, Food												Retailers, General												Tobacco												Transport												Water																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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business & city

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Centrica puts gas meter business up for sale

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The business responsible for a million coin and electronic pre-payment gas meters across the country has been put up for sale by Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply operation, in a move which will raise further doubts about the costs of supplying low-income customers as domestic energy competition emerges.

British Gas Trading (BGT),

Centrica's main supply arm, has recently invited offers to buy or run the pre-payment meter operation through a notice in the European Commission's official journal, though the likely price of any deal is being kept commercially confidential. The business, called Quantum after the electronic smartcard meters which are progressively replacing the traditional coin-operated variety, was inherited by Centrica when the old British Gas split itself into two.

The central Quantum office is based in Newcastle and employs around 150 staff, mostly carrying out "back office" tasks, with many employed on short-term contracts. Quantum, which remains a monopoly used by rival independent suppliers as well as BGT, runs around a million pre-payment meters, though according to the Gas Consumers' Council (GCC) only about 900,000 are in use at any time. The decision to hive off the division follows the es-

tablishment earlier by BGT of a joint venture with Group 4, the security group, to offload its main household meter reading business, AccuRead.

BGT confirmed it was examining selling or outsourcing the Quantum office. A spokesman said: "BGT is looking at how this operation will run in the future, including a possibility of this service being provided outside British Gas. Investigations into a number of options are at an early stage and the tender-

ing process is only part of that ongoing investigation."

The sale comes at a sensitive time for the industry, as the Government has instructed Ofgas, the regulatory watchdog, to review differences in charges for pre-payment customers in competition trials under way in the South of England. The GCC has been increasingly concerned at the apparent reluctance of some independents to supply pre-payment customers, given the additional costs of up to £80.

Sue Slipman, director of the GCC, warned that British Gas would have to invest up to £1m in improving the system before selling it off.

"If they want to sell it, they've got to spend money on it first. The issue is about how you get the investment in the system, especially if the Government stops suppliers from cherry-picking more affluent customers. It's a problem for the industry as a whole," said Ms Slipman.

The GCC's solution was to

impose a levy on suppliers who had not taken on a proportion of pre-payment customers.

John Battle, the Industry Minister, warned last week that "unbundling" costs in the industry should not make the poorest customers worse off, warning of the dangers of "fuel poverty". In one case the GCC found an independent gas supplier was charging 34 per cent more to supply pre-payment meter customers than those on direct debit.

Railtrack heads for new pay storm

Clifford German

Railtrack looked set to sail into a new controversy yesterday after it emerged that it planned to press ahead with long-term bonus schemes which could reward directors and top managers with free shares worth in excess of £2m two years from now, without seeking shareholder approval.

The news comes just days the rail group faced fierce criticism from John Prescott, the Environment and Transport Secretary, over the announcement of a 37 per cent rise in annual profits to £346m, and the bonus is likely to reignite the row over executive pay in the wake of the dispute between the Heritage Secretary Chris Smith and the directors of Camelot, the operators of the National Lottery.

Railtrack has rejected pressure from PwC, the Pensions and Investments Research Consultants, to comply with the recommendations of the Greenbury Committee report in 1995 and seek fresh shareholder approval. The company argues that approval had been obtained before 1 May last year, while the government was the sole shareholder, and the requirements of the Greenbury report have therefore been met.

The long-term bonuses are not due to be paid until 1999. But they are linked to annual bonuses payable over the next three years which allow directors to pay half their annual cash bonuses into a trust which invests the proceeds in shares. The bonuses cannot exceed 40 per cent of basic salaries. After three years the directors could be entitled to five times the value of funds in the trust.

The exact value would be influenced by the performance of the shares, and also by extra payments approved by the railways regulator to reward reduced delays in railway services. The Department of Transport said yesterday Railtrack had already been awarded an extra £72m for reducing train delays.

The Department of Transport confirmed yesterday that approval for the bonus schemes had been obtained before privatisation and had been mentioned in the flotation prospectus.

C&W set for key role in China's £6bn float

Magnus Grimond
and Chris Godsmark

Cable & Wireless, the international telecommunications group, could become the lead corporate investor in the first Chinese telecoms group to open its doors to foreign capital after a Hong Kong flotation which is expected to value it at up to £6bn.

Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, is said to be working on plans for the stock market launch of China Telecom Hong Kong, which is to become the main vehicle by which China Telecom, the state operator, raises outside capital for development.

Such a move would represent an early payback for Dick Brown, C&W chief executive, following Friday's £726m deal to sell a stake in the group's Hongkong Telecom subsidiary to China Telecom, when it was also promised a place as principal foreign investor in CTHK at some stage in the future.

It could also prove the catalyst for Mr Brown to realise his long-cherished aim of gaining membership of Global One,

the rival international telecoms network to BT and MCI's Concert alliance, which includes his former employer, the US group Sprint.

Entry by C&W up to now has been blocked by Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom, which have argued that the British group has nothing to bring to the party. The possibility that it will be the first foreign group to demonstrate a significant presence in the world's most populous country may also pave the way for links with Nippon Telephone & Telegraph, the giant Japanese operator, which has been courted by all the main international telephone groups.

Signs that Friday's China Telecom deal is already thawing relations with Peking came yesterday in suggestions from Hong Kong yesterday that C&W was set to revive talks over the construction of a mobile phone network for the Chinese capital. The company is already working on a fibre-optic link between Peking and Hong Kong, which is set to transfer from British to Chinese control next month. China Telecom Hong Kong will be the largest public share



Man with a message: Graham Wallace, Cable & Wireless Communications chief executive, with a poster in the group's £45m advertising campaign, intended to explain the rationale behind bringing together Mercury and the three cable companies

issue yet of any company with links to mainland China. The plan is for it to have certain assets of China Telecom injected into it before the flotation.

Neither Cable & Wireless nor Goldman Sachs would comment on the reports yesterday, but insiders said a flotation of CTHK would be an entirely logical development. One commented: "That company has been set up to take advantage of capital markets in Hong Kong and give foreign investors access to Chinese telecoms developments. Cable & Wireless will be the lead corporate investor in that company [putting] us into a unique position as the only not-Chinese telecoms investor in China Telecom Hong Kong

and through that into the Chinese telecoms market itself."

According to C&W that market is growing at the rate of the equivalent of one British Telecom every 15 months.

Friday's deal involved C&W selling 5.5 per cent of its 59 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom to China Telecom, with plans to reduce it in stages to

reach parity with the Chinese. Mr Brown promised that this would not be the last announcement on the deal. "This establishes the platform for news to come later. It won't come in the weeks ahead, but certainly in the months ahead. There is much to be done and that's in the interests of both of us."

The reports come as Cable &

Wireless Communications launches a single brand to replace those of Mercury, C&W's main UK subsidiary, and the three cable companies with which it has been merged.

By September the separate brand names will have disappeared in an operation which it knows must not confuse the public.

A hi-tech boom helps the medicine go down

Faced with the prospect of having a needle jabbed into their private parts, most men would politely decline, but until recently such an injection has been the most effective way to cure male impotence.

Then Vivus, a US drug delivery company, found an alternative - packaging the same drug into pellets to be delicately inserted into the urethra - and took half the \$60m world market in four months.

The next improvement could come from Powderject, which will float on the London stock market this month and has a pain-free, needle-less injection. "If all men suffering from impotence had treatment, this would be a \$500m market," says Paul Drayson, Powderject's chairman.

As this example shows starkly, the way a drug is given can matter at least as much as what it does. This is the premise behind the drug delivery industry. The sector has come from nowhere 10 years ago, to capture a \$12bn slice of the \$150bn world-wide pharmaceutical market. Moreover drug delivery is growing fast - at 15-20 per cent a year, twice as fast as the wider drugs market.

The product that put drug delivery on the map was a heart pill called Procardia XL. The first version of Procardia, sold by Pfizer, had to be swallowed three times a day, restricting sales to \$400m a year, and in 1989 was about to lose its patent.

In a well-timed move, Pfizer linked up with Alza - a then tiny drug deliv-

er company - which came up with a once-a-day version, reviving Procardia's patent and tripling sales to \$1.2bn. Felix Theeuwes, Alza's president of research and development, remembers the excitement: "We enormously expanded the market for angina drugs. Our technology gave Pfizer its first billion-dollar drug."

The range of delivery technologies today is vast and ingenious. It includes everything from simple skin patches, inhalers, gels and nasal sprays to implants, pills with microchips and contact lenses that release drugs into the eye.

SkyePharma's Geomatrix technology, for example, can release a drug in tablet form immediately, slowly over days or in prescribed bursts so that, say, someone at risk of heart attack could take a pill before bed and get regular doses throughout the night. Elan is developing a smart pill embedded with a microchip and Alza has a titanium implant, no bigger than a matchstick, that leaks out a cancer drug over a year.

The most exciting area in delivery, though, is driven by the biotechnology industry, which is developing protein and peptide-based compounds like insulin. These have to be given by injection because they are digested if swallowed and are too big to pass normally through the skin.

Among the many companies working in this area, Cortec is developing insulin and brittle bone pills. Inhale has an insulin dry powder inhaler and Powderject a helium pump which can drive molecules through the skin at three times the speed of sound.

For both patients and healthcare payers, there are huge benefits in all this - the easier a drug is to take, the more compliant a patient will be. Alex Zis-son of US broker Hambrecht & Quist

Company	Market value
Alza Corp (US)	\$2.5bn
Cortec (UK)	\$277m
Ogynis	\$292m
Dura Pharmaceuticals (US)	\$1.7bn
Elan Corp (Ist/US)	\$2.5bn
Ethical Holdings (US/UK)	\$78m
Gulfport Pharmaceuticals	\$501m
Inhale (US)	\$307m
Liposome Company (US)	\$993m
Powderject (UK)	\$109m
RP Scherer	\$1.3bn
Shire Pharmaceuticals (UK)	\$198m
SkyePharma (UK)	\$307m
TheraTech (US)	\$237m
Vivus (US)	\$13m

says the cost benefits of improving compliance are central to the delivery sector: "In the US, 28 per cent of hospital admissions can be traced to people not taking their drugs properly."

Glen Travers, chairman of Cortec, says that less than a third of women prescribed hormone patches for brittle bones stay on the treatment after two years. "The cost to the US government in hospital fees to treat broken bones is \$10bn a year and growing."

For the big pharmaceutical companies, meanwhile, a clever delivery system can extend the patent life of their drugs, generating substantial extra revenues. The number of alliances with specialist delivery companies is growing.

Alza's Mr Theeuwes says: "It is financially unrewarding for pharma groups to spend millions on their own technologies to improve just one drug." Donald Geaney, president of Elan, says: "Many medicines stay on the shelf because they cannot be delivered properly and this is costly."

Rob Stabel, chief executive of Shire, sees another reason for alliances: "Research directors in big pharma groups are not enthusiastic about delivery. It does not lead to Nobel prizewinners." Investors, though, should be more excited. While the small numbers of UK delivery companies are normally lumped in with their biotechnology

cousins, as Jo Walton of broker Lehman Brothers points out, their risk profiles are substantially different.

"Delivery companies work on existing chemicals, where all the data - animal tests, safety, which patients to target, which clinical trials to use - are already known. Times to market are shorter and the chances of success are higher," Mr Zissoon agrees. "It takes a delivery company about three to four years to get a drug to market, compared to six years for a normal drug."

Financial risks are also lower. Robert Chess, chief executive of Inhale, estimates his research costs are a tenth those of an average hi-tech company and with three times as many products, risks are spread.

And as Richard Stewart, SkyePharma's finance director, points out, the development costs of reformulating an old drug are borne by clients, while established sales and marketing teams can push the new version at minimal cost. "All this means more in royalties," he says.

Though royalties can limit upside, companies working in protein delivery or on big drugs stand to gain substantial returns and make profits sooner than most hi-teches. So far, their potential is more apparent in the US. According to Ms Walton: "Investors are more cynical in the UK, where hopefuls like Cortec have not yet made it. In the US there are some huge and profitable companies." UK delivery companies may not be far behind.

IN BRIEF

Abbey National rebuffs NatWest

The board of Abbey National rejected the idea of discussing a £25bn merger with National Westminster Bank on the grounds that Abbey would be handed the unwelcome task of integrating the retail banking divisions and taking responsibility for widespread branch closures, redundancies and customer dissatisfaction. NatWest would meanwhile have the more glamorous task of creating an international mega-bank, which City wags christened Westminster Abbey.

Chief executive Peter Birch believes there is no advantage for Abbey to pick up the problems and incur the immense unpopularity for the few hundred million pounds the integration could save. Abbey National's future was more likely to lie in further growth, diversification and acquisitions, a spokesman said yesterday. Its stated aim is to derive 50 per cent of its profit from non-traditional activities by the year 2000. The figure is already 40 per cent.

Granada dampens expectations of YTT bid

A report that Granada was lining up an imminent bid worth over £600m for fellow north of England ITV group Yorkshire-Tyne Tees was being played down by both sides yesterday. Granada, which is forecast to announce a 31 per cent rise in annual profits to £240m on Wednesday, is thought to have worked out a takeover plan with Yorkshire, but nothing immediate is expected to come of it. Any move this week would come as a surprise to Ward Thomas, as the Yorkshire chairman is not due back from a holiday in the south of France until Thursday.

Separately, Granada confirmed that it had agreed a £45m deal to sell Brown's Hotel in London's West End to Raffles Holdings, owner of the eponymous luxury hotel in Singapore. Brown's, acquired by Granada after the Forte takeover, has during its 160-year life played host to Haile Selassie, Napoleon III and Theodore Roosevelt's last night as a bachelor.

Work starts on Tunnel Rail Link

Engineering work on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has begun, the developer, London & Continental Railways said yesterday. Five tunnelling contracts together worth £800m on the 108km high-speed link have also been put out for tender, and the first bid, worth £300m, has already been received. The first contract should be awarded by late summer.

Computer specialist plans float

AIT, a specialist provider of computer systems for the financial services sector, plans to float this summer. It is expected to sell off 40-50 per cent of its shares by way of a placing through broker Greig Middleton, to raise £10m, of which about £2m will be new money. The company was founded in 1986 by managing director Richard Hicks, who will cut his stake from 45 to 25 per cent. In the year to the end of March last AIT doubled profits to £1.1m.

Latin America expected to lead growth

The world economy will grow by about 3.3 per cent this year, according to 450 experts polled by the IFO research institute in Munich. Latin America is expected to lead the way with 5.2 per cent, ahead of Asia with 4 per cent, North America 2.8 per cent and Europe 2.3 per cent.

Publisher set for AIM listing

Helicon Publishing, best known for publishing the *Hutchinson Encyclopedia*, is planning a listing on the AIM next month. The company was formed from a management buyout of the Hutchinson reference division from Random House in March 1992.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Change %	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	YTD %	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	YTD %
FTSE 100	4645.00	+23.7	+0.5	4693.90	4065.60	3.54			
FTSE 250	4473.20	-22.8	-0.5	4729.40	4462.00	3.84			
FTSE 350	2247.90	+7.1	+0.3	2272.10	2017.80	3.36			
FTSE SmallCap	2280.38	-13.8	-0.6	2374.20	2178.29	3.09			
FTSE All-Share	2206.41	+5.5	+0.2	2230.98	1998.78	3.52			
New York	7418.61	+87.5	+1.2	7383.41	5032.94	1.73			
Tokyo	20485.75	+418.9	+2.1	20611.56	17303.86	0.80			
Hong Kong	14655.13	-102.7	-0.7	14990.90	12055.17	2.89			
Frankfurt	3695.29	+147.4	+4.2	3695.29	2646.77	1.48			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES

UK interest rates

Illustration of yield curve (10 year) 1997

US interest rates

Illustration of yield curve (10 year) 1997

* All yields are market convention

Source: Merrill Lynch

Money Market Rates

Index	1 Month	1 Year	Bond Yields *				
			Medium Term (%) <td>70 Yrs</td> <td>Long Bond</td> <td>(%)<td>70 Yrs</td></td>	70 Yrs	Long Bond	(%) <td>70 Yrs</td>	70 Yrs
UK	6.50	7.00	7.05	7.98	7.12	8.15	
US	5.72	6.13	6.54	6.75	6.81	7.01	
Japan	0.47	0.81	2.50	3.15	-	-	
Germany	3.13	3.31	3.79	5.50	6.57	-	

* Bloomberg's Indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Index	Top 3	Price chg	100 Chg %	5 Chg %	Falls	Top 3	Price chg	100 Chg %	5 Chg %
Cable & Wireless	572	73	14.5	De La Rue	384	102.5	21.1		
LASMO	275	30.5	12.5	Coltch	300	42.5	12.4		
Premier Oil	45.8	3.8	8.9	Stanhope	191	22.7	10.6		

CURRENCIES									
\$/£					\$/DM				
	Close	Week's chg	1 Yr Ago			Close	Week's chg	1 Yr Ago	
\$ (London)	1.5275	-0.28c	1.5409	\$ (London)	0.6144	+0.09	0.6490		
\$ (N York)	1.5320	-0.9c	1.5433	\$ (N York)	0.6127	+0.23	0.6479		
DM (London)	2.8136	+5.77p	2.8578	DM (London)	1.7269	+3.82p	1.8301		
¥ (London)	187.751	+0.355	188.296	¥ (London)	115.305	+0.030	109.200		
£ Index	99.5	+1.5	86.1	£ Index	103.0	+1.0	97.3		
OTHER INDICATORS									
	Close	Week's chg	1 Yr Ago			Close	Week's chg	1 Yr Ago	
Oil Brent \$	17.81	-1.37	18.04	GPPI	156.3	+2.4pc	150.9	19 Jun	
Gold \$	344.45	-0.80	385.70	RPI	109.7	+2.5pc	107.0	26 Jul	
Gold £	211.64	+0.73	250.47	Base Rates		-6.25pc	6.75		

The day the gypsies rode into town

Matthew Brace
on Appleby's
horse fair – the
biggest event
in the gypsy
calendar

They are hounded off the land, their children are turned away from schools and they are treated with contempt by much of society, but this week the gypsies are celebrating their life and traditions in style.

The great horse fair at Appleby is the biggest event in the gypsy calendar. Thousands make the pilgrimage from around Britain, Ireland and the Continent to the small Cumbrian market town beneath the glowering Pennines to catch up with relatives, meet future marriage partners and sell horses.

During the weeks prior to the fair gypsies begin arriving, decorating the nearby lanes with their painted caravans. This year many were not given access to their traditional camp site overlooking the town on Fair Hill, or Gallows Hill as it is also known, until the last minute, causing overcrowding in the roads approaching the town.

Appleby has a festival air about it. Between the painted caravans are trading stalls and fortune tellers and the streets are full of gypsies and hangers-on who come to see a slice of ancient travelling life. In the evenings, the gypsies drink late under light, summer skies and across Fair Hill the sounds of ancient ballads can be heard from the campfires.

But the fair has an altogether more serious side too. It is where old scores are settled. Barely a year goes by without fights between sworn enemies taking place.

And there is the cut-throat business of horse-selling. Horses are washed and groomed along the banks of the river Eden which flows through the town and dealers demonstrate their animals' fitness and strength by running them through the crowds at speed, scattering the on-lookers. Until a recent ban, the horse dashes took place through the main



Ground work: Gypsies on Fair Hill in Appleby ready for this week's horse fair. Travellers have gathered there to celebrate their way of life for centuries (below)

Main photograph: David Rose

streets, their owners shouting for people to get out of the way.

Thousands of pounds change hands on races run over the meadows and lanes where it is common to see horses galloping without harnesses and their young riders sometimes going

bareback. The harness races, with small buggies, also draw the crowds.

Today is one of the main trading days when vital money is earned to see the dealers through the lean winter months of travelling ahead. Some fam-

ilies have been making a living trading horses at Appleby for centuries.

The fair is said to date from 1685 when James II gave Appleby a charter for "the purchase and sale of all manner of goods, cattle, horses, mares

and geldings". However, some maintain horses have been traded in Appleby since as far back as the 13th century. This year's fair, which ends on Wednesday, is expected to attract more than 20,000 people. By Saturday morning, more than 500 caravans had parked up and Fair Hill was already crowded.

Cumbria police, wisely, let the gypsies get on with it. As one duty officer put it on Friday night: "I wouldn't say it was ever quiet round the horse fair. There are always some gypsies who get into fights with old rivals, but they don't involve the public. So far this year it's peaceful."

There are other horse fairs around Britain. Charles Knightly's compendium of traditional festivals and rituals, *The Customs and Ceremonies of Britain*, notes the Barnaby Fair at Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, in late June, one in Brig, Lincolnshire, in the first week of August, and the West Yorkshire and Dewsbury Fair in late August. But none is as grand and as impressive as Appleby.

Charlie Smith, chairman of the Gypsy Council, an independent rights group, acknowledges that the Appleby Horse Fair and the whole gypsy way of life has been at risk for years but blames the previous government for doing much to make the situation even worse.

"This fair, all our fairs, all our traditions, are under threat. It's not a new thing but since the Criminal Justice Act was introduced, things have got worse," he said.

"We have had far more problems with the laws of trespass which have seen more and more gypsies turned off land."

The trespass laws have allowed police to evict gypsies along with other itinerant travellers and squatters with greater ease.



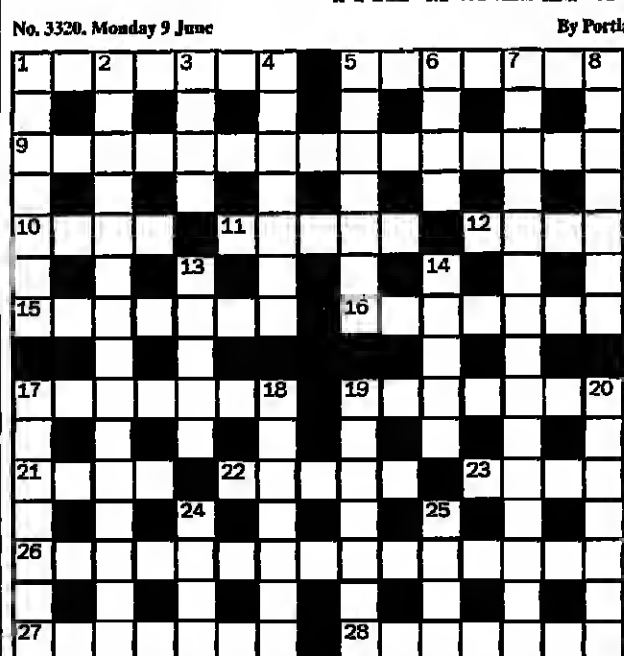
Also, reports Mr Smith, far more gypsy children are being turned away from schools, causing a serious setback to literacy rates and meaning that more travelling families have to find time to educate

their children themselves. He is hoping that Labour in government, as they promised in opposition, will avert the decline in gypsies' rights and he is awaiting a reply from John Prescott, the Deputy Prime

Minister, with whom he has requested talks.

But for this week, politics and hardships are being put aside as the biggest annual show of gypsy solidarity and celebration parties on a Cumbrian hillside.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



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28 Shakespearean role that isn't fleshed out? (7)
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2 Artist Colin drove Diana crazy (8,2,5)
3 Wanderer heads off to the other side (4)
4 Result of quarrel (4,3)
5 Look again at safety-first notices (7)
6 Up-beat game (4)
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14 Illegal act by councillor cancelling copy (5)
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19 Fetching last quarter's receipts (7)
20 Country cure's drunk without fuss (7)
24 Fairy Queen, Greek character's found gripping (4)
25 Heard of chance to entertain (4)

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McCarthy given new contract up to 2000

Football

Lothar Matthäus was dropped as the captain of the German national team on Saturday following the publication of his "Secret Diary," an insight into the club's turbulent season. The club's chairman, Franz Beckenbauer, said that the defender Thomas Heimerl would take over as captain.

There are serious problems with the club's management, said Beckenbauer, who said that the defender Thomas Heimerl would take over as captain.

The diary appeared on Friday and included details of a 10,000 mark (£3,600) bet. Matthäus was appointed in February last year as successor to Jack Charlton, who was due to retire at the end of the World Cup in France.

The Polish national coach, Andrzej Szarmach, has resigned a week after the side lost 2-0 to England, ending their chances of qualifying for next year's World Cup.

Another coach to go over the border was Claudio Ranieri, who has left Fiorentina after a disappointing season in which the club finished ninth in Serie A and therefore failed to win a spot in the UEFA Cup.

The coach of Second Division side Cilevo, was likely to take over from Ranieri.

French rethink on fences

The fences could be coming down in time for next summer's World Cup after all as the fences have been accepted not to back down the French Government.

The former Premier, Alain Juppé, a minister in the government, has been asked to attempt to get the fences governing the World Cup grounds to be removed.

File's general secretary, Serge Blatter, has been asked to attempt to get the fences governing the World Cup grounds to be removed.

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MONDAY 9 JUNE 1997 • THE INDEPENDENT SPORT

England's glory as Australia suffer Test rout

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE
Reports from Edgbaston
Australia 118 & 477
England 478-8 & 119-1
England win by nine wickets

The moment the whole of English cricket has been waiting for appears to have arrived. England have not only beaten Australia with a convincing margin, but they have done so in a way that has been described as a 'miracle'.

England's captain, Mike Atherton, was on hand to see the side home with an unbeaten century of 118. The day before when he had reached his first hundred in 25 Test matches.

For Taylor, it was probably his only way to silence those who had begun to question his right to lead the country. One of the who hadn't, was his wife, Judy, whose faith in her husband went as far as placing a bet on him scoring a hundred. She was the first person he rung at the end of play on Saturday.

While Taylor nudged, Blewett played expressively all round the wicket, despite the handicap of an injured left knee. His momentum was the second new ball and once that will be crucial if the Ashes are to return at the end of the summer.

hooking him to the boundary backward of square. When the ball had died, he stroked forward and two languid cover drives of Gough were perfection. Another four, this time off Caddick, flashed past cover to bring up his hundred off 171 balls. This was Blewett's third century in only his third Ashes match, a unique record and one that underlines what a fine batsman he is.

He had added 194 with his captain when Cook faced Taylor. Gough, standing considerable credit, began to apply the technique to Australian hands, but that ended in the penultimate over when he was bowled. Contributing afterwards, the Glamorgan off-spinner, Mark Butcher, caught by the ball rebounded off pad then back of bat.

At the other end, Malcolm was propelling another fearless spell which, although going unwarmed, softened up Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan enough for Gough to pick them both off when he replaced the Debutante man from the Pavilion end.

He also removed Mark Waugh, returned from hospital with a clean bill of health, though the grace he had shown in his previous down more to his team's impending predicament than the famous stump and lever that had helped him over the weekend.

If Gough's spell had opened up the possibilities for a fourth-day finish, Mark Ealham's scaled it. With that bustling waddle of his, the Kent all-rounder took 3-0 in 10 balls, a sequence only broken when Bevan, acting as runner for Gillespie, was run out by Darren Gough as he received John Crawley's throw from square leg.

With the extra half an hour available, England, manfully, batted their way to a victory. The first 15 overs of a cloudy day, the first 15 overs of a cloudy day, the first 15 overs of a cloudy day.

At one stage the Australian bowlers were going at an average of 4.5 runs per over, but over as Australia and Steven cut loose. Only Waugh managed to show things down. He will have to expand that role if Australia are to get back on terms in this series.

Athletics

THE 100M HURDLES FINALS at the World Championships in Athens, Greece, saw a dramatic finish as the American, Allen Johnson, won the race in 1:32.01, ahead of the British, Colin Jackson, who finished in 1:32.02.

Cycling

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Equestrianism

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Golf

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Baseball

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Basketball

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Boxing

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Football Results

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Digest

World Cup Group One

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Two

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Three

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Four

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Five

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Six

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Seven

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

World Cup Group Eight

Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Denmark 0-2 Serbia 0-0
Belgium 0-2 Serbia 0-0

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Hockey

Ice Hockey

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Motorcycling

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Rugby Union

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Speedway

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Tennis

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Sailing

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Swimming

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Winter Sports

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Detroit end their 42-year drought

Ice Hockey

The last time the Detroit Red Wings won the Stanley Cup was in 1955. On Saturday they beat the Philadelphia Flyers 2-1 to complete a four-game sweep of the NHL's Eastern Conference playoffs and take the Stanley Cup back to Detroit for the first time since 1955.

Nicklas Lidstrom and Darren McCarty scored for Detroit and Mike Vernon made 26 saves as the Red Wings outplayed the Flyers, younger players.

Vernon, who was in the Detroit goal for all 16 of the team's play-off wins after being relegated to back-up for all the regular season, was named Most Valuable Player, but virtually anyone on the team could have won the award. Calgary, a previous winner with Calgary in 1989, had an almost flawless defence in front of them.

The Red Wings beat St. Louis, Anaheim and the defending champions Colorado Avalanche on their way to the final series. They dominated the Flyers as Detroit's Scotty Bowman became the first coach to win the Stanley Cup with three different teams, having already won it with Montreal and Pittsburgh.

There were some tense moments when Eric Lindros scored with two late goals for Philadelphia, but as Vernon asserted the puck behind his net as the final seconds ticked away, the captain Steve Yzerman, a Detroit player for 14 seasons, jumped into the arms. The rest of the team mobbed the real and painful demolition ensued.

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GRAHAM THORNE TOOK HIS TALLY OF TEST CENTURIES TO FIVE

\$20 The French Open saw Belgium's Filip Dewilder become the first finalist for TWENTY years to reach a Grand Slam semi-final

WINDSOR

6.30 Staxelap
7.00 Lamoria
7.30 Pinnocia Danella
8.00 Brandon Fratik
8.30 Calypso Lady
9.00 Songsheet

GOING DOWN IN FIRM

STAXELAP: High quality trial for the 1974...

LAMORIA: High quality trial for the 1974...

PINNOCIA DANELLA: High quality trial for the 1974...

BRANDON FRATIK: High quality trial for the 1974...

CALYPSO LADY: High quality trial for the 1974...

SONGSHEET: High quality trial for the 1974...

WARWICK

6.30 New Dances 6.45 in Question 7.15 Gals 7.45 Cherished 8.15 Court House 8.45 Remission

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IN QUESTION: High quality trial for the 1974...

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COURT HOUSE: High quality trial for the 1974...

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RACING

WINDSOR

6.30 Staxelap
7.00 Lamoria
7.30 Pinnocia Danella
8.00 Brandon Fratik
8.30 Calypso Lady
9.00 Songsheet

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THE INDEPENDENT

FOOTBALL

High time for Beckham to grow up

Jan Ridley sees Glenn Hoddle's most gifted youngster show his immaturity

England have played Brazil only 18 times in 43 years. The last time was in 1990, when they lost 1-0 to the World Cup champions. It was a humiliating defeat, and it was a sign of things to come. Beckham, who was only 17 at the time, was one of the few players who showed signs of maturity. He was a young man, but he was a professional. He was a player who was ready to grow up.

Why James got 'shirty'

Germany's Matthias Sammer (left) is challenged by Viedoslav Vanechuk of Ukraine during Saturday's World Cup qualifying match in Kiev

Photograph: AFP

James got 'shirty' because he was challenged by Viedoslav Vanechuk of Ukraine during Saturday's World Cup qualifying match in Kiev. James was the captain of the England team, and he was the one who was challenged. He was the one who was 'shirty'.

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Photograph: AFP

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Africans first to qualify for finals

Round-up

Nigeria and Morocco have become the first two countries to qualify for the World Cup finals in France next year. Nigeria, who won the Olympic football tournament last year, beat Kenya, their closest rivals in Africa's Group One, 3-0 on Saturday. Nigeria's goals were scored by Sunday Olsch, Emmanuel Amunike and Wilson Oron.

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A first mate
differs from

\$18

Tiger Woods' 67th-place finish in the Memorial Tournament in Ohio was his worst performance in EIGHTEEN tournaments as a golf professional

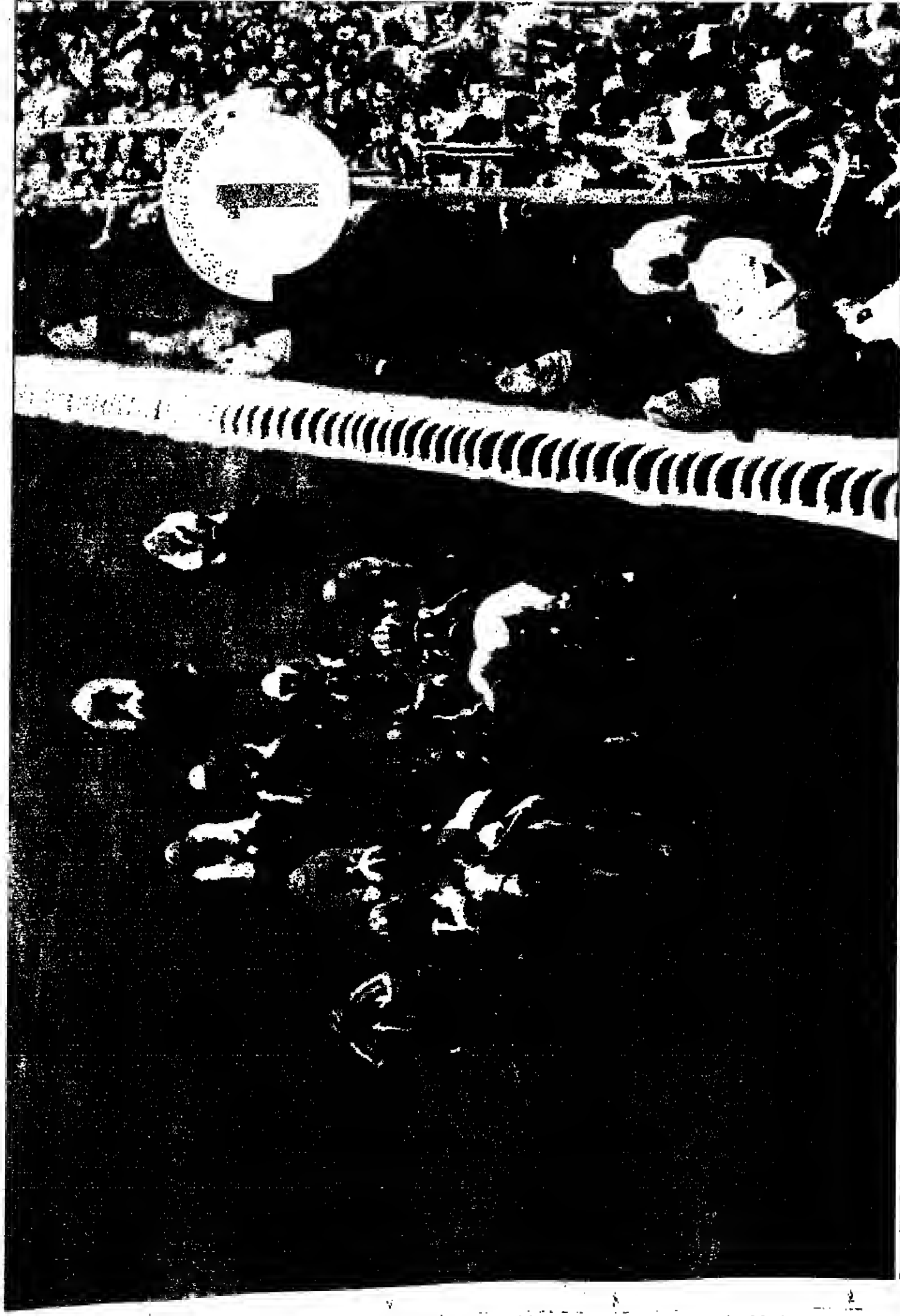
THE DERBY

TENNIS

\$7
Ken Nagels scored six tries against Halifax to break the Canberra Raiders' record of five in a match set by Nat Motunga SEVEN years ago

McAlister wipes away his Wembley misery

Majoli is prepared to 'eat grass' in



Benny The Dip lives up to his name by lifting his biggest booty in a big crowd as Epsom regains some of its old atmosphere on Saturday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Benny and Silver rematch

RICHARD EDMONDSON

The money-splashed world of top athletes has provided us with two titanic head-to-heads this past week, but for those who seek a direct competition of valor and worth the stage of the Irish Derby in three weeks' time beckons imminently. After morning medical examinations and consultations between connections yesterday, it was announced that both Benny The Dip and Silver Patriarch are due to race each other in a rematch of the 218th Derby on the foreign soil of the Curragh. Start packing.

There will be a lot of carbon gases expended before 29 June on the subject of whether the best horse won on the Surrey Downs at the weekend. The prevailing thought seems to be that Willie Ryan on Benny The Dip pinched the race once he had run. The tenham Currier, while Pat Eddery left his challenge too late on Silver Patriarch. A few others still

was fluttering over. Stunley's Frank, the home of Saturday's winning trainer, John Gosden, said: "I think it was an unlikely race because he broke well and didn't have the pace and Pat had to nudge him. Benny deserved to win because he quickened and took six lengths out of them."

Pat Eddery has collected the Derby three times, but he gets as much publicity about the mares he has lost. El Gran Senor in 1984 will be depicted by some as another that got away. Silver Patriarch proved as slippery to guide as Dushyantor had last year, and old Pat must mope that he would get an easier ride at the Curragh. He was ridden like a deer by the jockey, who needs the galloping horse who needs the track to suit. Eddery said: "I'm looking forward to Ireland because we'll get those conditions."

There were, however, no reports yesterday that a white flag

John did not crack up, though, and there was also an emotional containment about Willie Ryan. The 32-year-old has, for long, been considered one of the best trainers in the water curriers, but on this occasion his colleagues came close to bending him for one outside the currier when it comes to big-race rules.

It was something of a relief that Ryan managed to orchestrate a compelling finale as that climax did much to ease the deplorable performance of the odd-one-out. Eddery's career was over, his body ravaged by illness. He died soon afterwards. "Will Gordon Smith monitored the horse's work, but at the end of the day it's not the same when it's not your own name," Gosden said. "From that point of view, I always felt the jockey was a bit out of sync with the horse. It must have been a very falling out about every other time. I would say to my old man, somewhere up there now, that we finally got it right."

Kuerten had to do most of the defending early in the third set. Kuerten said, apologising for making a bit of a mess of the celebratory bubble. "That's why I don't know how to open champagne." He seems to be a quick learner.

Few among Kuerten's vociferous supporters enjoyed the occasion here more than his German grandmother, Olga Schlusser, who has studied the form of all the leading players on television since "Guga" started playing and seen herself as his "scout". Kuerten made special mention of his coach, Larri Passer, whom he regards as a second father. When Kuerten was 10 years old, his father, Aldo, died of a heart attack while umpiring a junior match.

"I will enjoy this night with my family and my coach. I really worked hard with my coach on the mental side of my game. He told me I would win against every player, and I really started to put this in my mind," the champion said.

"I think I can improve a lot in my game. I'm getting pretty solid from the baseline. Maybe I can go a little bit more for the net." If he is able to translate his skills on the faster courts, the spurt will be well blessed.

Kuerten sambas to Paris triumph

JOHN ROBERTS

reports from Roland Garros

An astonishing French Open drew to a close here in Paris last evening with Bjorn Borg handing the Coupe des Mousquetaires to the unseeded Gustavo Kuerten, a player barely known outside the Brazilian resort of Florianopolis a fortnight ago.

But it was certainly not a case of Who's Who and Who Cares. The 20-year-old Kuerten, whose brilliance frustrated the No 10 seed Sergi Bruguera 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, in an hour and 50 minutes, captured the imagination as well as the majority of the points.

Rarely has a fresh new personality risen to so spectacularly in a sport which craves characters, but little and down-right scrutiny in terms of survival tennis tradition, Kuerten overcame the past three champions, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Thomas Muster and Bruguera, en route to the \$400,000 winner's cheque and overnight fame.

A small group of supporters began a samba around the grounds here which will be copied throughout Brazil in honour of the first man from the nation to win a Grand Slam singles title.

When Maria Bueno won the first of her three Wimbledon titles in 1959, a stamp was issued in her honour. The aircraft taking her back to Sao Paulo was diverted because of a storm, but she finally arrived after midnight, all the lights in the city's buildings were switched on to greet her.

Florianopolis will have to wait for Kuerten, who is due to play another clay court tournament in Bologna this week before settling for a grass courts for the first time as a professional in Nottingham the week prior to Wimbledon.

Kuerten could be in line for a seeding at the All England Club. His ranking is likely to be as high as No 16 today, a mighty leap since his arrival in Paris as the world No 166. Only one man ranked lower has won a Grand Slam singles title, Mark Edmondson, No 212 at the 1976 Australian Open.

Whether Wimbledon sways to

the samba remains to be seen. Kuerten will certainly have to dress in a more subdued manner than his yellow and blue (slopes and all) outfits which caused the President of the French Tennis Federation, Christian Bimès, to comment: "We don't want these guys dressing like soccer players."

For yesterday's presentation, Bimès was accompanied by Borg and the great Argentinian Guillermo Vilas, who handed the runner-up trophy to Bruguera. As Kuerten lifted the cup, he could have been one of those lanky midfielders from the Copacabana, or the Minasfield. Then captaincy every good day.

Kuerten enjoyed every moment and thoroughly deserved the acclaim. A first-round loss last year, his reputation grew and grew from the moment he recovered from 0-3 in the fifth set to defeat Muster in the third round.

That was followed by consecutive five-setters against the Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev and Kafelnikov, the Russian defending champion. A four-set victory against Filip Dewulf, a Belgian qualifier, elevated Kuerten to yesterday's confrontation with Bruguera, the champion in 1993 and 1994.

The Spaniard has proved himself capable of rallying all day with anyone unwise enough to take him on in his own backcourt. Kuerten was down to his knees, but he was determined to shorten the points with the accuracy of his serve and by winning groundstrokes delivered at precise angles to the corners or down the lines.

He broke Bruguera twice in the opening set, which flushed him in 28 minutes, and had conceded a total of only four points on his own serve in stretching his lead to a set and 3-1.

It was then that Bruguera's relentless pounding began to make an impression. Although Kuerten saved the first break point against his name with a smash, his touch failed him for once on a drop shot, and he was broken to 3-2.

The battling Bruguera survived four break points in the sixth game of the set and created three further opportunities in the 10th, only for Kuerten to hold on and then break for a two-set lead.



Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten hits out on his way to Grand Slam victory over Sergi Bruguera yesterday

Schlusser, who has studied the form of all the leading players on television since "Guga" started playing and seen herself as his "scout". Kuerten made special mention of his coach, Larri Passer, whom he regards as a second father. When Kuerten was 10 years old, his father, Aldo, died of a heart attack while umpiring a junior match.

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Yesterday's men's singles final in Paris

Photograph: AFP

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THE INDEPENDENT SPORT • MONDAY 9 JUNE 1997

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Montgomerie races to record finish

Cilla Montgomerie equalled the course record at Salsbury Hill yesterday to win the European Grand Prix by five strokes.

Montgomerie's 33 strokes on the final nine holes included four birdies over the closing five holes as she struck a seven-under-par final round of 65 to finish 18-under-par for the tournament with a total of 270.

It was Montgomerie's 13th victory in 10 years on the European Tour. Her total was two strokes better than the score he had predicted would be required to win. Retief Goosen, the defending champion, was five strokes back in second place.

Montgomerie secured her first victory of the year with some superb finishing, holing putts of 20, 30, 20 and 12 in the final hole to move to the top of the European points table and climb to fifth in the order of merit, but still trails Ian Woosnam by 108,035 points in his search for a record fifth European title.

In the US Open it's not so much a case of the birdies you make but the bogeys you don't make. I can't wait for the coming Thursday morning the way things are going.

Goosen trailed Montgomerie by a stroke early in the round but his challenge was blown away by Montgomerie's finish and he had to settle for second place after hitting a 69. Lee Westwood, like Goosen, just one stroke behind Montgomerie at the start of the round, was third after hitting a 70 for a total of 276 and moved into seventh place in the Ryder Cup rankings.

Montgomerie moved to the top of the European points table and climbed to fifth in the order of merit, but still trails Ian Woosnam by 108,035 points in his search for a record fifth European title.

Britain's Laura Davies maintained her record of winning a European tour event at least once each year since 1985 when she won the Danish Open at Vejle yesterday. Davies, making her first European tour appearance of the season, shot a closing round of 69 for a nine-under-par aggregate of 307. She finished three strokes clear of Sweden's Maria Hjorth and took her 25th European title. The Australian, Karen Lam, and Mont-Laure Le Roux from France shared third place, a further three strokes back.

Results, Digest, page 23



In the swing, Colin Montgomerie continued the run of blistering form. Photograph: Alistair

Watson puts business before Troon adventure

ANDY FARRELL

There is a reason why the Amateur Championship is named as it is, and not as the Pro-Am Open. Once in a while a career amateur comes along for whom winning the title is the pinnacle of their golfing endeavours, rather than a stepping stone to supposed fame and fortune in the professional game.

Same time today, Craig Watson will turn up at the ship connected to the family lighting business in Falkirk, where he works. "I get all the time off I need to play golf," he said. He will certainly be out of the ship for three weeks, the Open Championship at Royal Troon next month, the Walker Cup match at Quaker Ridge, New York, in August, and next year's US Masters at Augusta National.

The Amateur champion is annually invited to be the first major of the year, and usually turns professional on the Friday night of Masters week. As Gordon Sherry found out last year, and Warren Bischoff this year, that leaves them in a polling position. Watson was in the original squad for this year's match, but was not selected to go to Valderrama for a training session. "I was disappointed," he said, "but I have not really been thinking about it."

As for Troon, he has an unhappy memory to extinguish. The last time I played there I shot 63, and that was on a calm day. I was eight over after seven, with the holes into the wind still to come, and I fell out with my father who was caddieing for me.

Watson had played all the courses on the Open rota except for Royal St George's, but for that leaves them in a polling position. Watson was in the original squad for this year's match, but was not selected to go to Valderrama for a training session. "I was disappointed," he said, "but I have not really been thinking about it."

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Faldo makes his move

Nick Faldo scored 66 to finish four strokes off the lead after the third round of the Kemper Open in Potomac, Maryland. Mark Wiebe, looking for his first PGA Tour win since 1986, made five birdies in eight holes to establish a three-stroke lead over Mike Springer.

Faldo was the only big name in the field to make a move on a day when Greg Norman (73), Tom Lehman (73) and Nick Price (72) all went backwards. "I'm new to this course," Faldo said. "I'm having to grind hard."

The putter is working better, so that's a nice feeling.

Norman's round was affected by a public address announcer at the first hole who made a reference to the accident in March, in which President Clinton injured his knee, at Norman's home, saying, "If you're ever injured, I would suggest you publicly decline."

Norman upstaged the announcer, bogeyed three of the first four holes and all but fell out of contention.

Monarchs end Bowl hopes for Scots

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

TONY TRANIER

reports from Murrayfield

Scottish Claymores	9
London Monarchs	10

London Monarchs effectively ended the Scottish Claymores' hopes of a place in the World Bowl with a narrow victory here yesterday. In front of a crowd of 16,115 - the biggest regular-season attendance at Murrayfield - the Monarchs' defense held firm to frustrate the Claymores.

The Scots were looking for a big win as Robin Fire had beaten Amsterdam Admirals 34-0 on Saturday but it proved to be beyond them.

Roby Vroman ran in a touch-down in the first quarter for the Monarchs and the former Tottenham and England striker Clive Allen kicked the extra point to give them a 7-0 lead.

The Claymores clawed their way back into the game, with their Finnish kicker Kari Gronroos scoring a 30-yard field goal to make it 7-3, but Allen kicked a 23-yard field goal to stretch the lead to seven points again.

However, in the final second of the first half Gronroos scored another field goal to make it 10-3. Then, with four minutes left of the fourth quarter, Gronroos managed a 35-yard field goal to cut it to a single point. But the Finnish kicker failed for 28 yards early in the fourth quarter - a miss which proved all too costly.

In Germany on Saturday, Bobby Phillips scored two touchdowns as Frankfurt Galaxy came back for a 29-17 win over the World Bowl finalists, Barcelona Dragons.

The Dragons led 10-0 in the first quarter on Javis Augoy's 31-yard field goal followed by Jon Kitna's two-yard pass to Shadrick Wilson.

Frankfurt then took control of the game, jumping to a 21-10 half-time lead as Phillips burst up the middle for scores of 4 yards and 1 yard, the second coming with 17 seconds left.

Frankfurt announced before the game that they will not be renewing the contract of head coach Ernie Stautner next season, citing differences with team manager Christopher Heyne.

Stautner, 72, led the team for three years, leading them to World Bowl appearances in 1995 and 1996.

In Düsseldorf, Derrick Clark rushed for two touchdowns and kicked a 20-yard field goal as the Atlanta Braves beat the Arizona Cardinals 24-0. Clark, a former Denver Broncos player, scored on short runs of 12 and nine yards in the first half for his seventh touchdown in the past three games.

Halifax thrashed

DAVE HADFIELD

British misery in the World Club Championship continued Down Under, with Halifax and Salford both on the wrong end of record thrashings.

Halifax were hammered 70-6 by Canberra Raiders - the club's biggest-ever score. The new South Wales full-back, Ken Nicholls, scored six tries - another record.

"Our lads were overawed," the Halifax manager, David Hobbs, said. "We gave Canberra too much respect."

Salford hardly did much better at Adelaide, losing 50-6 to give the home side the first half-century of their short history. Salford were only 15-6 in arrears with half an hour to play, but their best player, Gary Broadbent, scoring their only try, but they fell apart in the closing stages to allow Adelaide to play exhibition rugby.

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Castelford and Paris denied taste of glory

Castelford and Paris St-Germain briefly had hopes of clinching the honour of becoming Europe's first winners in the World Club Championship yesterday, but Canberra's fiery action over the incident that saw St Helens' Andy Hagan take on off with a cut head on Friday night. Swann appeared to bring his knee into contact with Hagan, who was later examined in hospital, and was placed on report by the referee, Stuart Cummings.

Canberra's improved form early on. After only five minutes, the Perth second row forward Peter Shule went over, then the second row John Givens dived over to make it 18-0 as Chris Ryan converted three out of three.

Castelford rediscovered their best form just before half-time, when a burst by Brendan Hume led to Jason Citchley putting the second row, Ian Tinks, who also converted, through six more points, and a shock looked possible as David Chapman went over. Danny Orr's boot brought the 17-10.

Yet it was to be short-lived, and once the ex-Wigan and New Zealand centre, Keron Iro, broke down the defence for a try, the score was 24-10. Ryan converted.

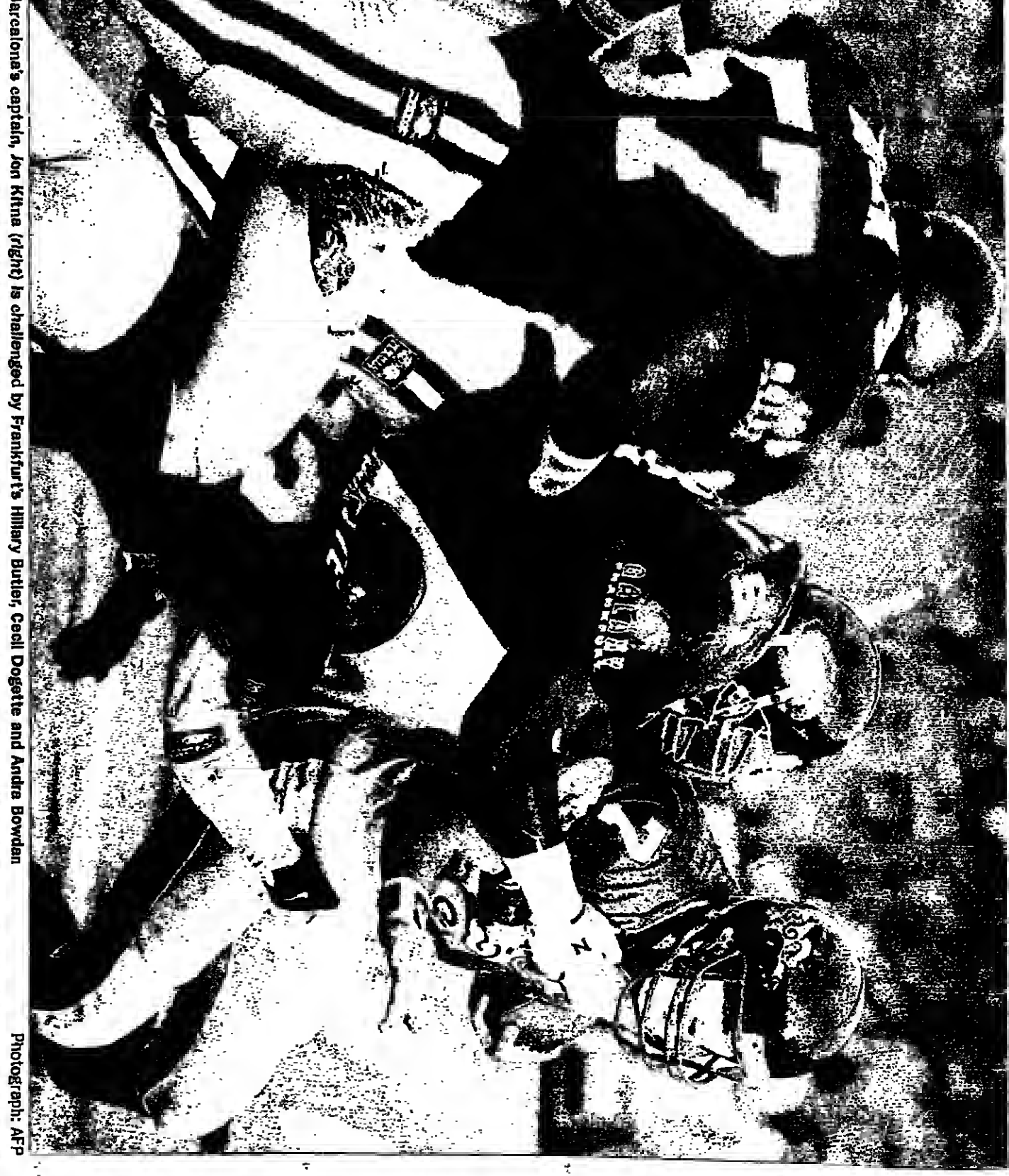
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Barcelona's captain, Jon Kitna (right) is challenged by Frankfurt's Hilary Butler, Cecil Dogette and Andre Bowden. Photograph: AFP

CRICKET

\$16 Alan Shearer has scored **SIXTEEN** goals in 34 appearances for England

Strang and McCague keep Kent on track

DAVID ILEWELLYN
reports from Tunbridge Wells

There had been a touch of anxiety about Kent followers after they had been put in to bat, and it was understandable as

Kent's heady season continues. Second in the championship, Benson and Hedges Cup semifinal, tie against Northamptonshire tomorrow and yesterday's comprehensive victory over Warwickshire, which leaves them lofty placed in the Sunday League.

They owed their success as much to some fine howling as to the solid control they had over the crowd. When Martin McCague, who had been the first to yell "Ward's a dog," was called to the ring by Paul Strang, doing a good guy, bad guy act, McCague was venomous as ever with his pace. Strang, deceptively gentle but full of guile with his leg-spanners — had between them sent five

Only seeing Warwickshire's county, Nick Knight and I were wiled to Black Knight and not to Warwick. I was not to know that MacGowan did for him, finding an edge, and wisest keeper Steve Marsh took a stunning left-handed catch with a dive that

score!wa

CRICKET
England v Australia
Eirex Test (day 1)

First test (day 1)
England: 107 for 0, 21.1 overs

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MONDAY 9 JUNE 1997 • THE INDEPENDENT SPORT



Newport back in swing

Anyone glancing at the averages going into the latest round of the championship matches would have seen a familiar name: bowler on top of the bowling section — after a year of injury torment.

Former England paceman Phil Newport missed two thirds of last season with an achilles problem which flared up on Wrecclesham's pre-season trip to Barbados.

“As a swing bowler you need to regain that rhythm and swing — and if you get that going you are going to get wickets on any

His guile and experience were desperately missed by a side already going through a rebuilding phase after the glory years of an All-American coach, Bill Dille. But now 34-year-old New-

Annan's golden gift to Australia

hockey

TILL COLWILL
reports from Berlin

Australia took their fourth successive gold medal in the women's Champions Trophy at the Olympic hockey stadium yesterday in a thrilling fi-

medal with a 5-2 win over the Olympic silver medalists, Korea.

Great Britain secured their second successive victory over the United States, the World Cup bronze medalists, with a 3-1 win to finish fifth, having beaten the Americans 2-1 in their last pool game.

Yesterday, Karen Brown, who

The world champions beat Germany 2-1 with a golden goal in the 89th minute. The 17-year-old Lucilla Wright was the last to score, having fallen behind in extra time, then beaten the German goalkeeper in the English jumping ball in the 89th minute (in charge of her 10th hat-trick). Wright, who has not yet turned 18, played an outstanding role in the victory, and she will be allowed Britain back to the scene.

s Italy's Giro drought

[illegible]

world one, four-second holder over the 5,100-ft. run course in Switzerland's Valais, had won the 5,000-m. Alex Zuehle of Switzerland, who was second, three seconds behind, with another time trial specialist, the Russian, Vladimir Yakovlev, third.

**Gunnell
getting
better all
the time**

Athletics

The race was won by Tatyana Tereshchuk of Ukraine with a time of 54.96, but for Gunnell it was an improvement on her performance in Rome last week where she was fifth in 55.52.

van Bailey lost a soggy 100 metres to Nigeria's Davidson Ezinwa. The Canadian world record-holder finished in 10.28sec to Ezinwa's 10.20. The race began moments after a torrential thunderstorm had abated.

Both were clocked at 13:45. In another tight finish, Kenya's David Kiptono won the men's 800m in 1min 44.57sec, just 0.05sec ahead of Hendrik Mogaetsi of South Africa. Vincent Matlukwen of Kenya was third in 1:44.75.

The world champion, Jan Zelensky of the Czech Republic, finished in 1:44.75.

The women's 400m was a competition between two Nigerian women, with one of them winning the javelin with one of the season's best throws of 86.92m; the double Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova of Russia won the women's 800m in 1:59.29; and Russia's Irina Biryukova took the women's 1500m in 4:05.70 on the flooded track.

...rmins and six Russians - who finished in that order. Biso Akotolu of Nigeria won in 50.55sec, followed by her compatriot Faith Ogunkoya in 50.79. The fastest Russian was Olga Kotlyarova at 51.40.

Gotti breaks Italy's Giro drought

Cycling

The unforgiven Ivan Gotti became the first Italian to show up at the Giro d'Italia yesterday, beating the defending champion, Pavel Tonkov of Russia, by 1min 27sec.

Marco Cicali, Gotti's Sacro

[illegible]

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THE WEEK
AHEAD

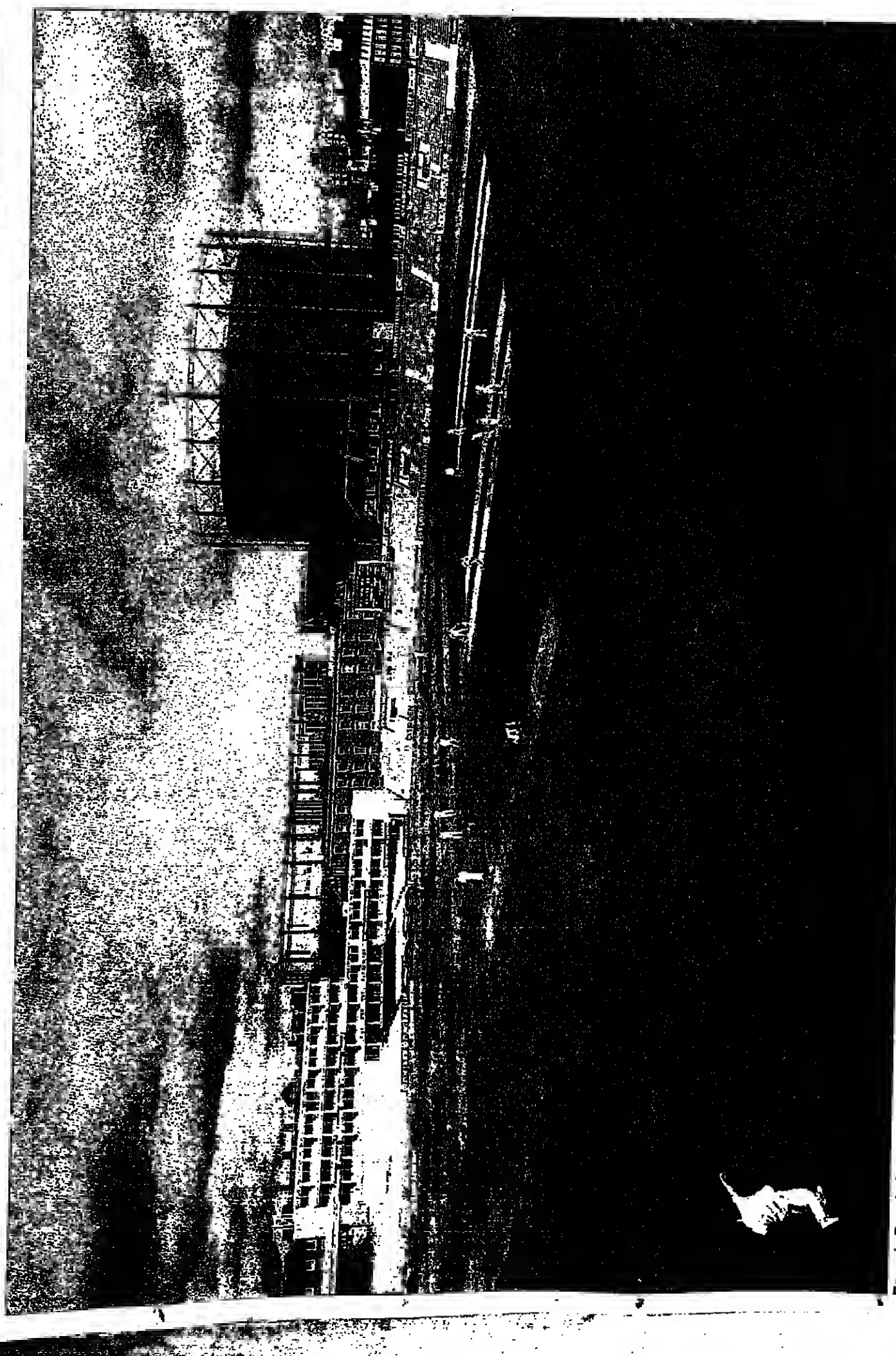
They'll never forget
their first time

Extra Cover

A week in cricket by Jon Culley

\$14 **CRICKET**

Entire week enlarged the list of beaten odds on Derby favourites to FOURTEEN when he finished fourth behind Benny the Dip on Saturday



Essex's Ronnie Irani returns the ball from the boundary as Surrey scramble for runs at The Oval on Saturday. Essex won by 147 runs

Smith's swing fires leaders

Photograph: Peter Jay

What is it about Championship cricket that inspires the meek and humbles the mighty? Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire won again on Saturday, and are now first and third in the table, while Lancashire and Surrey, on paper the two most powerful teams in the land, are 15th and 16th.

Continuity of selection must be a problem at Old Trafford and The Oval, with so many players involved with England, but you would have thought they would have used to that by now; and the players that are left are not exactly chuffers.

Of the two Lancashire's poor showing is slightly less surprising: they finished 15th last season and have not won the Championship for 63 years. Even so, defeat by Somerset inside two days - one of them considerably shortened by rain - was quite a shock.

There should be some sympathy for Surrey over their latest defeat, by Essex at The Oval: they had four players on England duty and another three were injured just before or during the

done well and Tony Wright looks as though he's coming to a bit of a farm at Headingley.

"As far as I'm concerned, Robert Cuddeford started last year as an England A prospect, but he had domestic problems with his mother taking seriously ill, which unfortunately blew him apart. But now he's come out and followed it on again this year."

"It has been very encouraging. If you read all the pre-season reports we weren't going to bowl a side out, we couldn't do this, we couldn't do that, but we just said, right, we're going to bowl line and length and keep about the same. We do believe we've got a match winner in Mike Smith who, as long as the ball swings, is one of the most dangerous bowlers in the country."

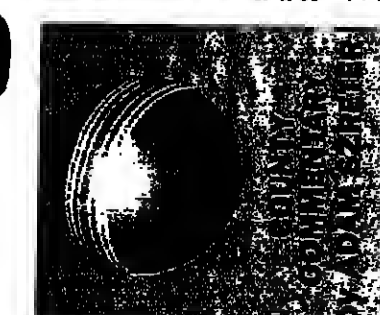
Last season it was the batting, as much as anything that let them down: only Durham managed fewer batting points. "We just didn't get the runs in the right place," Steward said. "This year we've got there or thereabouts. Vince Wells taking a leaf out of

The lies of Welsh, captain and main strike bowler, led a big fight, but the Tiesman Shaun Young has impressed as Welsh's overseas replacement. "You're always looking for match winners in overseas players but he's done his job as an all-rounder and strengthened the team on both sides without really starting."

Steward said.

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receptor of coaching at Bristol, is not so shacked. "I don't think it affected us really," he said of the close-season problems. "I think it came from outside, everybody seeing it as a turmoil situation, but it was always fairly straightforward within the club."

The captaincy position was offered to Jack Russell, but when it didn't work out in the best interests of the club it was offered to Mark Alleyne. He jumped at the opportunity and he's done a magnificent job and he's done a magnificent job of welding together what we do, ways thought we were a unit of very talented cricketers."

MONDAY 9 JUNE 1997 • THE INDEPENDENT SPORT

Lions trampled underfoot

Australian men have won ELEVEN singles titles at the French Open tennis championships, more than any other country

\$11

SPORT

Friese turns up the heat

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Pune Ala, Italy

By the end of the week Merriks and Walker were renaissanceing the work to be done in terms of boat-handling and new skills. After a dauntingly concentrated fortnight in Italy they turned round at the end of the regatta to sail the boat the 250 miles to Cagliari in southern France, from where it will be shipped back to England. That provides some more offshore work, and they will also compete in one or two of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's Channel races at the end of this month.

Mummi Joshi's medalists last year, Merriks and Walker set themselves and others high standards, but are having to do a lot in a short time as they make the switch from Olympic dinghy sailing to an eight-man keelboat. Kostecki, one of the world's best, said the British pair a big compliment when he said he expected them to be still going to make him a certainty for confirmation today as the 36-footer in Germany's Admiral's Cup team.

Richard Friese was the American team's lone sailor, with Chris Larsen and Dee Smith winning three races, while in third was the Italian team member Brezice, steered by Francesco Cheliff. A few other famous names were out of the silhouettes, with New Zealand's Georgia Express fourth overall with David Hannes steering.

Seventh place overall for Merriks and Walker was outside their goal of a top-five finish. Earlier in the week, they had been placed at the way things were going, including a win in the second race and a second place in the fourth. All the time they were learning, though they had an unhappy introduction to



Scott Gibbs: banned for one match and told to curb old rugby league instincts

David Dobson, an Oxford University forward, was sent off for bad-mouthing a referee during the 1994 trip to Australia and John O'Shea, the Cardiff prop, was dismissed for punching in a 1996 match against Eastern Transvaal in Springs, but no off-field action was taken in either case.

Cotton will now be interested in the outcome of tonight's meeting of the Mmanga union, which must decide what sanctions to take against Dobson and O'Shea. Dobson and O'Shea are both former players of the Transvaal Bulls, but no off-field action was taken in either case.

He admitted that Mike Curran and Nigel Redden being called up by the British Lions had disrupted England's preparations for the second Test. "It is a wonderful thing for them to do, but it is a bit of a problem for us," he said. "Our Test team, he said, 'The loss of an international fly-half and a second-row forward was clearly going to make a big difference, but there can be no excuses, Argentina through our offering yesterday.'"

England miss big guns

Andrew Baldock reports from Buenos Aires

Argentina	33
England	13

England flew home from Argentina with Ben Clarke, their pack leader, insisting that Saturday's heavy defeat in the second Test should not overshadow their six-match tour.

He admitted that Mike Curran and Nigel Redden being called up by the British Lions had disrupted England's preparations for the second Test. "It is a wonderful thing for them to do, but it is a bit of a problem for us," he said. "Our Test team, he said, 'The loss of an international fly-half and a second-row forward was clearly going to make a big difference, but there can be no excuses, Argentina through our offering yesterday.'"

Phil de Glanville, the England captain, said that the turning point had been a defensive blunder between Jim Mallinder and Adedayo Adebisi, which gifted Facundo Soler a soft try in the 31st minute. "That was the killer," de Glanville said. "We had just started to play well, gathering momentum and gaining a sense of direction when that score knocked us backwards."

"The loss of an international fly-half and a second-row forward was clearly going to make a big difference, but there can be no excuses, Argentina through our offering yesterday."



Argentina's Nicolas Fernandez-Miranda outjumps England's Martin Corry

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Wart-filled tale of
a sad superstar

Hard driving and plain speaking: Jacques Villeneuve, the Canadian with the balls to back the best

refer to me, in my face, as Gilles. They don't notice they're doing it. I say to them, 'Actually my name is Jacques.' They say, 'oh yeah, right, well anyway, Gilles.' I have to laugh at it."

But it presents a dilemma for Villeneuve Jr. On the one hand he very much wants to be seen as his own man. On the other, he does not want to damage the name his late father still possesses.

"I never got into Formula One thinking that I was going to beat my father. No way. He never wanted me to be his son; he wanted me to be his rival. The way to beat him is shidduky, or to overachieve him. He was like, 'You're my son, you're my son.' But I'm not who he was, and I am who I am. I'm super proud of being his son, and it's important to me, but I'm not the son the Gittles Valentine, the racing driver guy, I'm the son of my father."

"When I won in Spain I never crossed my mind that I'd win more races than my father until it was pointed out to me. The problem in admitting this is that people will say that I accept my father; once he's done so much for me, I'm not going against him. He's accomplished a lot, and he's a legend here. There's nothing I could do to diminish him. I don't want to diminish him. It would really concern me if people started to say that my achievement

Recognised as already the arch-competitor, does it grate with him that he is seen as having a huge advantage because of the Williams-Renaud can

"Holy hellfire no, having that car is a big help to me, I won't deny it, we clearly have the best car in the paddock, and it allows me to be more relaxed, I don't think the gap is as big as some would believe, I accept it may be in qualifying, but no, not much in the races. Besides, it also puts added pressure on me. Qualifying in third place by the Monna, for example, was seen as terrible by the media."

“I’ve always liked in win, in absolutely everything I doesn’t have to be just sports. I’m not a bad lo-

[illegible]

"I'd heal you," he said, delivered with utmost certainty.
"Don't doubt me."
"How can you be so sure of that?" I asked.
"I'd practice non-stop, every single day to make sure I gave you the best possible care."
"I'd give you the best possible care," he said, delivered with the same certainty as Jacques Villeneuve delivered a second consecutive smile. "That's why I'd win."

10 Men on the Wind Side, Dennis Rodman and Michael Chabon (Dialcore Press, hardback, £15.99)

Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London, (0171 240 3604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530).

Wart-filled tale of
a sad superstar

Hand of God – The Life of Diego Maradona
by Jimmy Burns
701-546-1144, paperback £6.99

Imagined. Very just does it to Diego Maradona, Henri Huot. You feel you just bowed to his legend like Goldman to his. I mean, it's all there: the drugs, the money, the trouble. I think that Diego's around the world, the parties where he played his game, the cameras, the size of Argentina. And you want to give him a copy. In person, "Maradona" is on word for "Piano" and stopped in front of me, where.

But Jimmy Burns, whose *How to Get It* first came out last year and is now out in paperback, did deliver a copy to the subject of his attentions in an Italian restaurant in London. Maradona was "unrune whether to thank me or break my nose." The copy is in paperback entitled, just in case, *Two days of confusion*. The Show Denial Of Diego Maradona: "A few days of confusion, telling the world, "Burns has passed all my test." That night, after a drinking session, he was stranded in his hotel and by a power failure, kicked the fire door until his foot fell through on the release, by fireman saving the rest of the night lacking the hotel furniture and screaming.

The very Burns told of a man who could never have been just a footballer. He has always been commended for more useful aims, from the early days when the Anglican regime used him as a distraction from their vicious despotism (and he was not even a distraction from that vicious despotism) to, more recently, modelled being sold to Sheffield United, through to US \$4, when Fila, needing this presence to help sell the name to the Americans, assigned the general secretary Sergio Blatter to make sure his transfer negotiations from Napoli to Seattle went smoothly and that he was not lost to the game.

Football matches were arenas for other battles; his single-handed victory over England in 1966, for example, was less a triumph than a triumph. It was a triumph, for the World Cup quarter-final, more a battle to revenge for humiliation in the Midlands. But, a financial investigation (journalism, as it has worked hard and the book is crammed with detail, it is easy to overdo the tongue-in-cheer imagery and Burns starts to sound like a pretension, though there could be a little more attempt at explanation to go with all the exposition. And at times it just mystifies, like a bad translation.

— *Dr. David J. Smith, University of Dundee*

But the facts on the work as we see the 1960s—the thrilling to the crowd's roar as he performs his half-time trick at Angelinos Jannis, through to that brilliant image of the Beatles' Ayrce doing burlesque in a former garage being wasted on her next to his rock solo. And on to the final scene in the book first edition, Diego leaving the Oxford Union on how football has sold its soul for money—this from a man determined to live the superior lifestyle to the most extreme and cynical extent. The truth is that, despite his World Cup-winning medal, despite all the wonder goals, Mirandani's story, as well as exposed by Diuns, is desperately sad. Of course, where the went wrong is obvious. He should have gone to Manuel Linares.

Glynis Manning

THIS WEEK'S TOP 10
SPORTS BOOKS

1.1997 PGA TOUR Official Media Guide, (PGA TOUR, paperbac

£15.95)
2 Hand of God - The Life of Diego Maradona, Jimmy Burn

3 Athletics 1997 – The International Track and Field Annals
(Bloomsbury, paperback, £6.99)

4. Bradman, Charles Williams (Abacus, paperback, £7.99)

5 1997 Wimbledon Compendium, edited by Alan Little (All England Lawn Tennis Club, paperback, £7.50)

6 A Lot of Hard Yaks, Simon Hughes (Headline, hardback £16.99)

**7 Formula One Grand Prix Pocket Annual, Bruce Smith (Viking)
paperback, £4.99)**

8 Jack Russell Unleashed ... Barking? Jack Russell with P. Murphy (Collins Willow, hardback, £15.99)

9 NatWest Playfair Cricket Annual 1997, edited by Bill Frind
(Headline, paperback, £4.99)

10 Walk on the Wild Side, Dennis Rodman with Michael S
ver (Dalecorpe Press, hardback, £15.99)

Chart compiled by Sportspegas, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London WC2A 3AB (020 740 0504) and Stuart's Square Manchester (0161 832 853).

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